**Gotham Getaway -Navigating NYC**

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March/April 2005 ISSUE

# Alternative CENTRAL

A Publication for Central PA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community.

## *Warhol Lives*

## *RePop* at Susquehanna Art Museum

Susquehanna Art Museum presents the Warhol-inspired *"RePop"* April 9-June 30. Opening reception is April 9, noon-5 p.m.

*RePop* is a traveling multimedia group exhibition curated for Da Vinci Art Alliance in Philadelphia by Art Historian Debra Miller. Miller is the energetic curator and author of *Artists of the Warhol Circle Then and Now* and *Billy Name: Stills from the Warhol Films*. She and Rick Armstrong, Brand Manager, The Andy Warhol Museum, juried the show that drew throngs in Philadelphia.

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### *62 attend*

## Boffo Turnout for Community Center Plan

"It's overwhelming to see this many people and organizations here," said one attendee at the January 12 meeting to map out plans for a regional lgbt community center. Sixty-two people participated in the relatively short meeting.

Another 12 people and organizations unable to attend sent their best wishes via email and expressed interest in future meetings. The meeting's goal was to make key constituents aware of the project.

Held at Harrisburg's Metropolitan Community Church, the event was hosted by Equity for Gays and Lesbians (EGAL) and The Greater Harrisburg Foundation (GHF). EGAL and GHF are collaborating, says EGAL chairperson Ben Dunlap, Jr, Esquire, to develop a "regional" community center.

"We're here from Gettysburg to make sure this entity does not become known as the 'Harrisburg' center, but rather the Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Community Center," said Greg King, Garretson Tile Co. King's sentiments were expressed by many at the meeting.

"We need everyone involved from all over central Pennsylvania – gay, straight, les-

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**Central Sighting –**
Rob O'Neal, Alternative Central's Key West papparazi, caught up with Bill Clinton. He and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton were on a fundraising mission. While in Key West, they stayed at the Harry S. Truman Little White House Museum, a favorite winter getaway for an earlier Democratic president. "I have never been here before," Clinton said. "So far I've been walking all over. It's really great to see people from all over the country, all over the world. Key West is so relaxing but it is a really high energy place."

## Youth Prom May 21 at Harrisburg Hilton

Common Roads, the lgbt youth group serving central PA, is holding an LGBT Prom May 21 at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers. The event will include a full course dinner, dancing and all the typical prom amenities.

Tickets will be available by the end of March to all central PA youth age 14 to 22.

Youth interested in purchasing tickets or joining the Prom Committee and adults interested in helping or contributing may contact Common Roads executive director Carol Reisinger,
717-920-9534;
carolr@commonroads.org.

## Stonewall Democrats Endorse Dan Miller

The Capital Region Stonewall Democrats (CRSD) made their first endorsement for this year's elections, throwing their support to Dan Miller for Harrisburg City Council. CRSD is the region's organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Democrats and their "straight but not narrow" allies.

Miller, who is openly gay, is treasurer of the Dauphin County Democratic Committee and has 28 years accounting experience. "His experience will help in overseeing Harrisburg's taxation, budgeting and city services," says co-chair Ben Turner. A community leader with extensive volunteer

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**Central Sighting –** Openly gay Dan Miller is running for Harrisburg City Council.

## Planned Parenthood Adopts a Mother's Resolution

"Ten years ago, the Cairo Resolution – a Mother's Resolution - addressed the challenges women in developing countries face when providing for their children," says Planned Parenthood board chair Sharon Greelish Cody. Planned Parenthood of the Susquehanna Valley affirms the principles embodied in that resolution, acknowledging the inherent worth and dignity of women, men, and children around the globe, Greelish Cody says.

The resolution came to life in 1994 when 179 nations convened in Cairo, Egypt to improve the quality of life for millions of women and families: Thus was born the The Cairo Resolution to underscore links between population and sustainable development.

"The United States was at the Cairo conference. We promised to be part of the solution. As an organization, we have endorsed the resolution, which seeks to address the

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**UNITY/DIVERSITY COMEDY NIGHT**
presents Simply Shanelle, favorite female comedian of BET and the Apollo Theater at Sunoco Performance Theater, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, Monday, March 7, 6 p.m. Tickets at 214-ARTS. Evening benefits National Museum of African American Studies, Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Positive Opportunities, and Pride Festival of Central PA.

## Gay Rights Groups Find Common Ground

What the queer community does best is fight among itself. After taking a bath in the last election, the nation's fractious lgbt civil rights groups have put aside differences, recently announcing they would work more closely to achieve major civil rights goals.

Following last November's election that saw the re-election of President Bush and passage of amendments banning same-sex marriage in 11 states the country's

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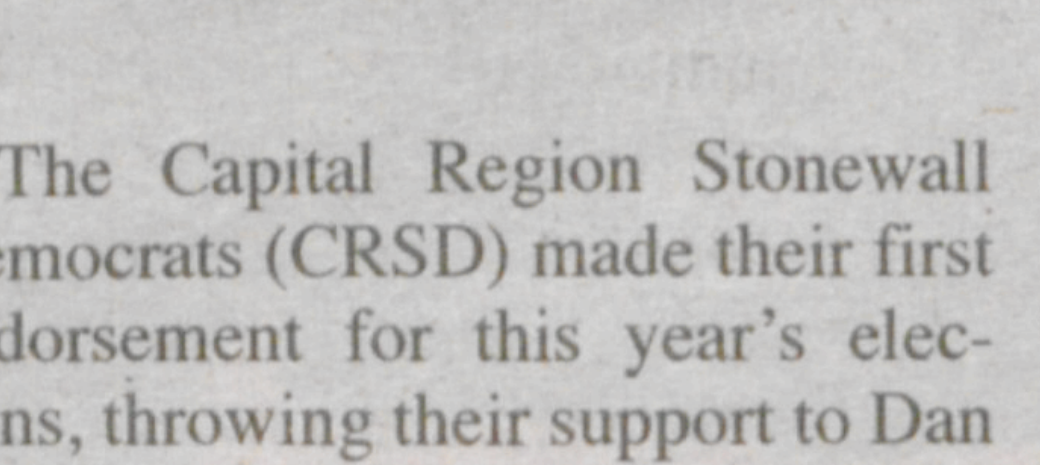
**Williamsport's Club Z offers Weekend Packages**



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**Key West "Von Cosel" Novel Like Frankenstein**

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## Thank you Benchmark!

# Newspaper Goes Independent

**by Frank Pizzoli,**
**Publisher & Editor**

Nothing succeeds like success.

After a fruitful collaboration with Benchmark Group Media, Inc., *Alternative Central* is now on its own. Operations are based entirely out of the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, sole publishers of the newspaper. Except for "behind the scenes," advertisers and readers won't notice anything different.

We will continue our due diligence in bringing you fun, timely, and informative articles.

Thank you to our faithful advertisers and fab readers for your support. Your allegiance has made this publication possible.

## Gay Rights continued

major gay rights groups began a soul-searching process about the future of the gay rights movement.

In a joint statement by more than 20 national organizations the country's leading rights groups pledged to work towards a common goal. "We play different instruments - lobbying, electoral politics, impact litigation, grassroots organizing, public education, media advocacy and more - and we are dedicated to playing them well," the statement said.

"While our organizations vary in focus and strategies, we share a number of common priorities that will help shape and unite our work in the months and years to come."

Among the groups signing the declaration were the Human Rights Campaign - the nation's largest LGBT rights organization - and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, its oldest. Log Cabin Republicans and Stonewall Democrats also signed on.

The list includes GLAAD, the

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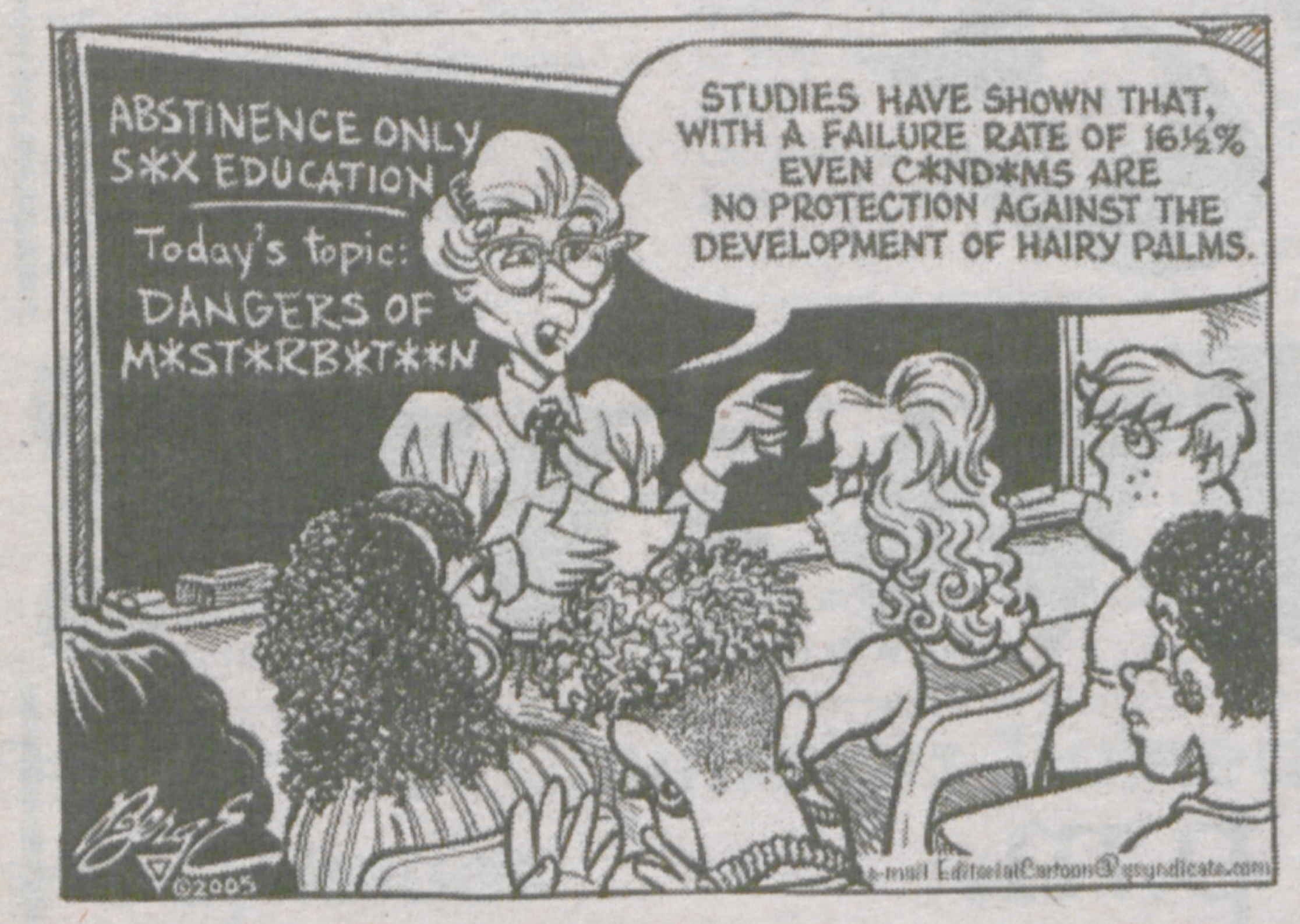
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## Letter to the Editor

**Dear Editor,**

**As a loyal *Alternative Central* reader, I look forward to the newspaper's informative articles. Kudos to a first class publication!**

**-A loyal reader**

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## We're coming out!

**Dear Advertisers & Readers,**

**After a fruitful collaboration with Benchmark Group Media, Inc., publishers of Harrisburg Magazine, we're coming out on our own.**

**Alternative Central (AC) now operates from the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, 1300-A N. 3rd Street, Lower Level, Harrisburg, PA.**

**The Switchboard initiated and continues to sponsor publication of Alternative Central.**

**Mark Ocker remains your Account Representative & Project Manager. He will devote himself full-time to our newspaper.**

**Our originating artist, Dan Clarke, now a freelance designer, has rejoined the publication.**

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# News page

## Steve Black Appointed Pen Argyl Tax Collector

Openly gay Steve Black, 38, was recently appointed Pen Argyl tax collector. Pen Argyl is a small town of approximately 3,600 residents located in the Slate Belt Region of Northampton County in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania.

Borough council appointed Black in a 6-0 vote to fill one year remaining on a term that became vacant when Patricia Fenner resigned, retiring to Florida. Black intends to seek a full four-year term in 2005.

He is Pennsylvania's sixth openly gay or lesbian person currently serving as a public official and the third in the Lehigh Valley. Other gay office holders include: Michael Breeland - York School Board; Geraldine Delevich - New Hope Borough Council; Gail Hoover - Allentown City Council; Kevin Lee - Lansdowne Borough Council; and, Charles Versaggi - Allentown School Board. All are Democrats except Republican Versaggi, who won election on a Democratic ticket.

Steve Black is political director of Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance and chairs the Pen Argyl, Wind Gap and Plainfield Democratic Committee. He previously sat on Pen Argyl School Board (1991-1994) and was 2000 delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

## Lansdowne Offers Domestic-partner Benefits

Saying ""It makes it a more versatile, stronger community," Faden's Jewelers owner Maria Faden, Lansdowne, said the influx of gay residents has been good for business. The town of 11,000 recently adopted policies recognizing its diversity.

Lansdowne recently followed the lead of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and nearby New Hope, in offering domestic-partner benefits to employees. The move makes Lansdowne the first municipality in Delaware County and only the fifth in the state to do so. It also joined a handful of other communities in banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"We're incredibly progressive, very forward-thinking, very tolerant. That's the definition we want out there of our borough," Mayor Jayne Young said. The town boasts many as many Rainbow flags as American flags on doors and windows. Maria Faden, owner of Faden's Jewelers on Lansdowne Avenue, said the influx of gay residents has been good for business. "It makes it a more versatile, stronger community," she said.

## PA Supreme Court Upholds Partner Benefits

In a decisive victory for gay and lesbian couples, Pennsylvania Supreme Court recently ruled that the City of Philadelphia has the right to provide employee benefits to the same-sex partner of a city employee in a "life partnership." The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights co-counseled the case with the City of Philadelphia and Pepper Hamilton LLP.

In a unanimous decision, the Court reversed a 2002 decision from the Commonwealth Court that the City had impermissibly created a new marital status and regulated in the area of marriage by recognizing and providing benefits to couples in same sex relationships.

"We do not believe that the city's mere designation of 'life partnership' as a 'marital status' demonstrates that it was equating life partnerships with state-sanctioned marriage," Justice Nigro wrote. The court wrote "we do not believe that the similarities between the requirements for the creation of a Life Partnership and the requirements for the establishment of a marriage demonstrate that the City has impermissibly legislated in the area of marriage."

Cynthia Schneider, Legal Director, Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights stated "Overall, the Court's decision is a clear victory for same-sex couples. The Supreme Court rejected our opponent's argument that domestic partnership ordinances are the equivalent of marriage and upheld the City's right to give benefits to the same-sex partners of its employees. This decision sends an important message to municipalities throughout the Commonwealth."

## Toni Broaddus Named Equality Federation Executive

Statewide lgbt advocacy organizations named Toni Broaddus the first executive director of their national coalition, the Equality Federation. The Federation provides peer-based leadership training and support programs for state activists.

"My number one priority is to ensure that activists in every state and territory have the tools and resources they need to educate American voters about how discrimination harms our families, our communities, and our country," Broaddus says.

"For too long, our movement has directed the majority of its resources to the national level," notes Ian Palmquist, Federation co-chair. "But the recent elections support the fundamental belief of Equality Federation members that the key battles facing LGBT

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# IRS Sends Warning To Gay Couples

The Internal Revenue Service is warning same-sex couples that they cannot file joint income tax returns even if they were legally married in Massachusetts or Canada.

The IRS says it is basing its denial of joint filings on Federal DOMA which restricts marriage to opposite-sex couples. The warning follows a court ruling in Minnesota where a federal judge recently dismissed a lawsuit filed by a gay couple.

Jack Baker and L. Michael McConnell claimed they deserved a tax refund because they were legally married and should be granted married taxpayer status. McConnell had sought to change his taxpayer status to married, and claimed he deserved a refund of nearly $800. The suit asked U.S. District Judge Joan Ericksen for an order "declaring plaintiff to be a full citizen who is lawfully married" in Minnesota.

In 1971, Baker and McConnell sued Hennepin County when they weredenied a marriage license. They lost that case - but while it was before the court they managed to get a marriage license in Mankato County and were married before a Methodist minister in St. Paul.

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# HIPPA & Your Health Care Power of Attorney

**By Derek J. Cordier, Esquire**

I have heard a few horror stories about lgbts and powers of attorney. Without a "power of attorney" for health care you may be unable to accompany your partner or loved one to the doctor's office or hospital room.

Even in an emergency, without power of attorney for health care in your possession, you may be unable to travel with your partner in an ambulance. Could you imagine the horror of being told you cannot get into the ambulance with the love of your life because you do not have a power of attorney? Then running home to get the power of attorney only to find that your partner had died en route to the hospital!

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) has made health care professionals extremely vigilant in not allowing access to their patient's confidential health information. Such information includes your name, address, and social security number. Although, there is no private cause of action under HIPPA, and there is a 180 day time limit to file a claim, an entity that is accountable under the Act is subject to severe fines for an infringement.

Many durable powers of attorney only contain a short paragraph concerning health care, which may not be enough to allow a partner to access confidential health information. A comprehensive health care power of attorney allowing specifically for access to confidential health information, while giving the power holder the ability to choose doctors, provide for changes in care and comfort, is the best way to protect your rights concerning your own health care.

While a power of attorney for health care allows someone else to make decisions for you if you are incapacitated, it does not necessarily allow them to make the decision to stop life support. A living will, called an Advanced Health Care Directive in Pennsylvania, is needed to carry out those wishes.

Although a Last Will and Testament is important, a power of attorney for health care is, in my opinion, the most important document an LGBT can have. In my last hours I do not want a doctor or family member interfering with the rights my partner should have as a matter of course.

# Few School Counselors Trained in Gay Issues

A survey of 118 Indiana high school and middle school counselors reveals that 80 percent of the counselors reported dealing professionally with gay and lesbian students.

About 97 percent of respondents

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**RePop continued**

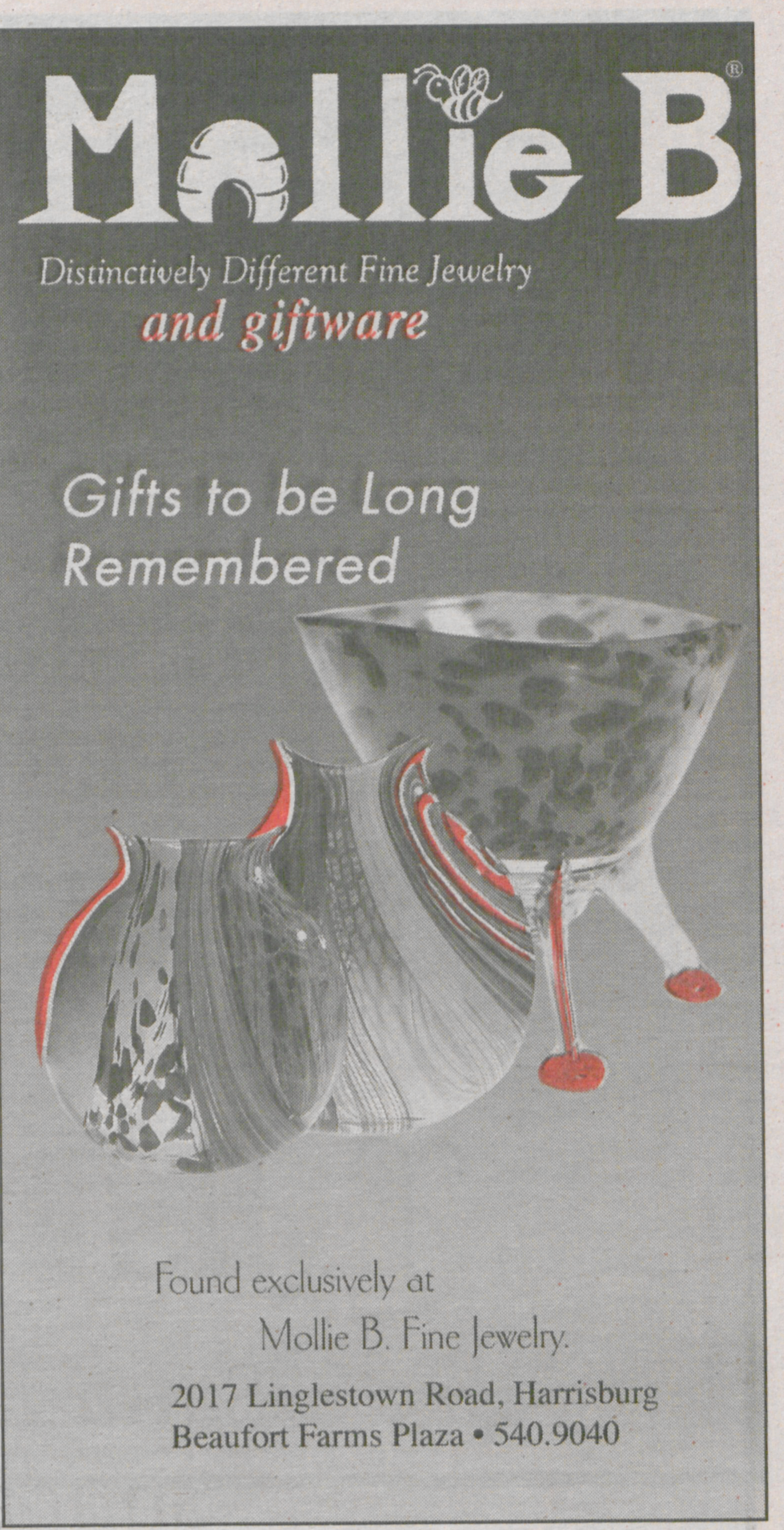
The work of *RePop*'s 23 living artists, so clearly inspired by the masters of Pop, is not merely derivative. "Each piece presents us with an updated reinterpretation of the prototypes of the Sixties," Miller says. "The exhibit illustrates Pop's impact and afterlife, while employing new materials and techniques, and treating subjects of current import."

Pennsylvania has had a long association with Pop Art. Andy Warhol was born, raised, and trained in Pittsburgh, and honored posthumously there with the world's largest single-artist museum.

Since the 1960s, beginning with Andy's legendary appearance at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Contemporary Art in 1965, Pop Art has remained a very visible presence in Philadelphia, as well. The city boasts three of Pop's most famous icons: Robert Indiana's *Love* statue, Claes Oldenburg's *Clothespin*, and David Smith's *Peace Sign*.

Among the next generation of Neo-Pop artists, active in the 1980s, Keith Haring, a native of Kutztown, contributed public murals to Philadelphia - the first in what would evolve into the city's extensive Mural Arts Project. Consequently, many contemporary artists in Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas continue to be inspired by Pop Art's style, subject matter, and technique - its appealing colors and bold graphic designs, affordable mass-produced paintings and prints, and familiar themes from popular culture, to which we can all relate. These popular elements are evident throughout *RePop*.

SAM: 301 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17101; 717-233-8668; info@sqart.org.



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# Financial Planning: Medical Bills Prompt Half of Personal Bankruptcies

High medical bills seem to lurk behind half of the US personal bankruptcy filings, according to Harvard University researchers. They found a majority of the debtors surveyed were middle-class, owned homes and had health insurance at the onset of their illness. Published recently in the journal Health Affairs, the study examined personal bankruptcy filings from 2001 in five federal court districts.

"Our study is fairly shocking," says Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, Harvard Medical School researcher. "We found that, too often, private health insurance is an umbrella that melts in the rain." For many, health problems set in motion a downward spiral that led to unemployment and subsequently the loss of health insurance, she says. Or, their coverage was filled with so many high co-payments, deductibles and uncovered services that they couldn't pay their bills. Out-of-pocket expenses averaged $11,854 for the medically bankrupt.

While that may not sound like a catastrophic sum, the authors note that many of the debtors lost their jobs because of the medical problems. "It's an awful lot of money to pay if your income has been reduced because you're too sick to work," said Woolhandler.

The study bucks the conventional wisdom that most bankruptcies happen to people who simply cannot control their spending. With the cooperation of bankruptcy judges, the researchers reviewed the court records of 1,771 filers in the Illinois, California, Pennsylvania, Texas and Tennessee districts. Of those, 931 underwent more in-depth interviews.The researchers found that medical bills contributed to at least 46 percent and as much as 54 percent of the filings.

Woolhandler said she believes the problem has only gotten worse since 2001 as the number of bankruptcies increases. The researchers describe the people who sought bankruptcy protection for medical reasons as "typical Americans who got sick." Of those surveyed, 56 percent owned their own home and the same percentage had attended college. In the two years before they filed for bankruptcy, one-third reported having a utility shut off, half said they had failed to fill a prescription and about 60 percent skipped necessary medical care, all in an effort to tighten their belts.

Those who are pushing more consumer-driven solutions "should comparison shop ER prices the next time they have chest pains," Dr. David Himmelstein, the study's lead author and co-founders of Physicians for a National Health Program, a not-for-profit organization that supports a national health insurance program. Himmelstein says, "The idea that consumer-driven health care is going to solve the fact that a whole lot of people are in trouble is a bizarre claim. Unless you're Bill Gates, you're just one serious illness away from bankruptcy."

**News Notes continued**

people today occur - and must be funded - at the state level. Over the next year, the Federation intends to increase the visibility of the work done by state activists - and we are thrilled to have Toni Broaddus providing leadership to our collective work." Contact: www.equalityfederation.org.

## NY Gov. Pataki Provides $1 Million for LGBT Programs

NY governor George Pataki's current budget proposal calls for $1 million for non-HIV/AIDS health and human services programs targeting lgbt communities statewide.

New York began funding lgbt services seven years ago with a blend of health, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, violence prevention and other social services to youth, seniors, crime victims and others. Over the seven years, more than $14.2 million has been provided by the state to sustain and help launch around 40 programs from Buffalo to Suffolk County.

The gay service organizations operating these programs work in coalition with each other and are known as the New York State LGBT Health and Human Services Network.

## Illinois Governor Signs Gay Rights Law

Illinois became the 14th state with a law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation. Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed a bill that adds "sexual orientation" to an existing law that protects people from bias based on race, religion and other traits. It bans discrimination in areas including jobs, housing and credit.

"What we're doing today is older than scripture: Love thy neighbor," Blagojevich said to a cheering group of about 150 gay rights supporters and community leaders.

Opponents had argued the law would be the first step toward the legalization of gay marriage and would infringe on the rights of churches and civic groups to oppose homosexuality on moral grounds. Proponents argued that discrimination against gays is just as wrong as discriminating against people because of race or religion.

## Survey Says Schools Lack Gay Programs

Saying, "We have a very long way to go," PFLAG interim executive director Ron Schlittler recently summarized a national survey conducted by Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, indicating that 95 percent of 163 US schools participating have minimal or no resources for lgbt students.

PFLAG's Safe School Assessment Report 2004 included responses from students, parents and teachers in 39 states, including Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Forty-nine percent of participants identified as heterosexual.

As reported in the study, 70 percent of the schools included had no training for staff on how to stop gay-related bullying and harassment. Likewise, 92 percent of schools failed to offer gay students the same training.

Schlittler said the national study reflects an overwhelming need to increase gay resources in schools. The survey also indicates that 95 percent of the counseling services lacked gay resources, and 99 percent had "little or no" resources for transgender students.

## Church Calls Off Weddings

New Haven, Connecticut's St. Thomas Episcopal Church will not perform any marriage ceremonies in order to voice their support of gay marriage, the church recently announced.

In the wake of the decision, the church received national media attention.

In August 2003, the Episcopal Church USA consecrated its first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, creating a schism in the Anglican Church worldwide. Yale Divinity School Dean Harold Attridge said the Episcopal Church's actions have put St. Thomas in a challenging position.

"That's a very difficult tradition to be in," Attridge said. "They are obviously struggling with this issue, and it must be causing some distress for members caught in the middle of this debate." Though the decision to ban all marriages will send a clear message, University Chaplain Frederick Streets said he does not think it will change the position of any other churches. "Whatever positions they have, this will only reinforce it," Streets said. "It might stimulate a sort of expression on the part of congregations on both sides of the issue, but it's not going to change a congregation one way or the other."

## Judge Voids Ban on Gay Foster Parents

An Arkansas judge recently declared unconstitutional a state ban on placing foster children in any household with a gay member.

Ruling in a case brought by the Arkansas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, Pulaski County Circuit Judge Timothy Fox said the state Child Welfare Agency Review board had overstepped its authority by

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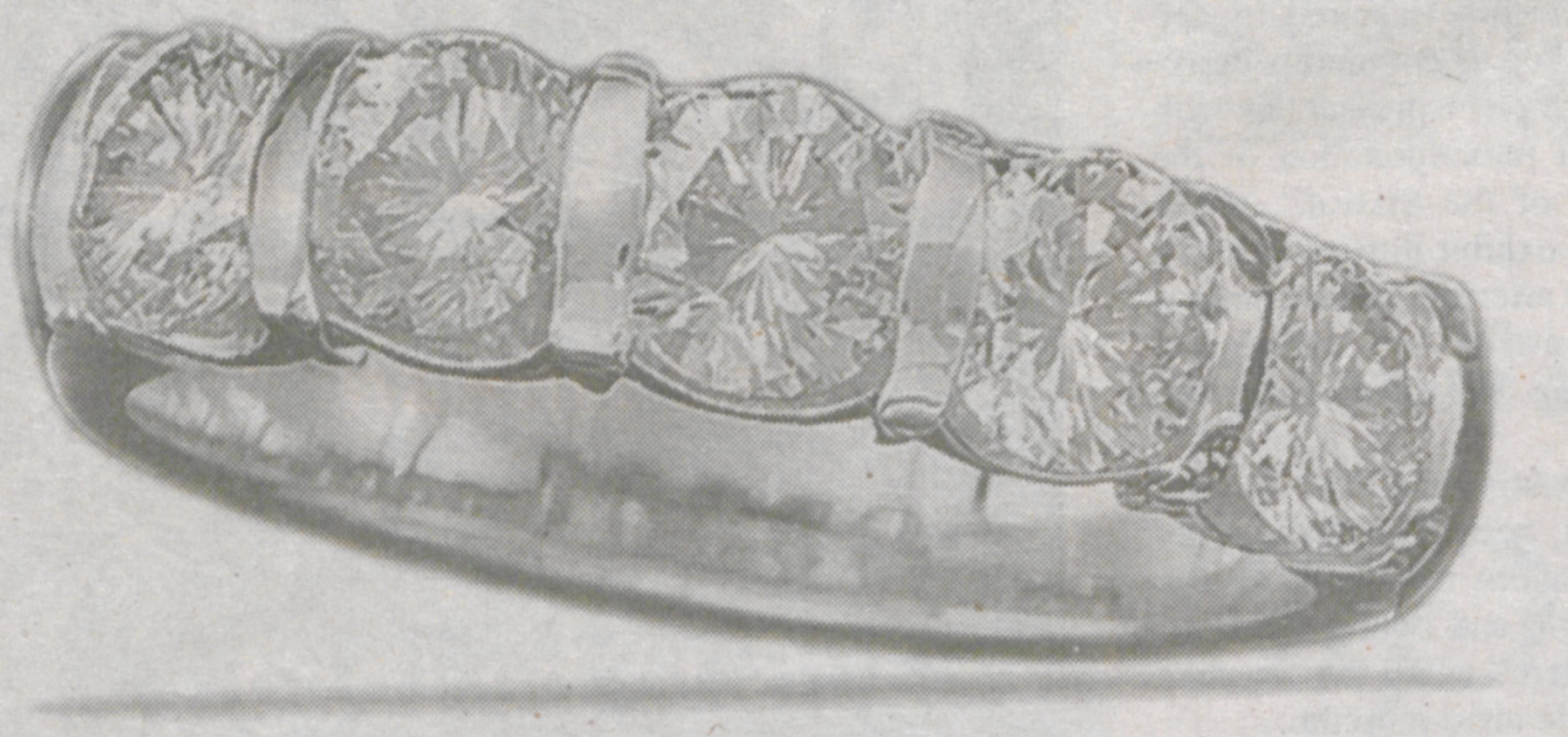

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## Gay & Straight Men Alike Have Body Issues

Both gay and heterosexual men are equally likely to aspire to an unattainable body type, or to harbor a distorted image of their actual body, new research indicates.

This finding contradicts the conventional wisdom that gay men have more "hang ups" about their appearance than straight men, study author Dr. Armand Hausmann told Reuters Health.

This assumption stems from a wide range of stereotypes, Hausmann noted, including the belief that gay men are more likely to adopt a "feminine gender identity," that gay culture places a high emphasis on body image, and that gay men have generally lower self-esteem. However, no research has adequately substantiated any of these notions, the investigator noted, suggesting more research is needed.

"It seems necessary to develop a scientific approach to the health of gay men in order to overcome gay prejudices," said Hausmann, who is based at the Innsbruck University Hospital in Austria.

During the study, Hausmann and his team asked 37 gay men, 49 heterosexualmen and 24 heterosexual men with eating disorders to complete a computerizedtest about body image. In the test, participants altered a drawing of a manusing fat and muscle to produce images that represented their perception oftheir own bodies, the bodies they would like to have, the bodies of theaverage man, and the bodies most appealing to men or women.Gay and heterosexual men without eating disorders were equally likely tohave unrealistic body images — meaning they want bodies that are difficultor impossible to achieve — or to have a distorted body image, in which theymisperceived their actual shape, the authors report in the Journal ofClinical Psychiatry .However, men with eating disorders were more likely than the other twogroups to have body image distortions, providing some clues about eatingdisorders in men, Hausmann noted."Our findings indicate that distorted body perception, rather than bodyideal, may be central to eating disorders in men," he said. "Thisdistinction may be important for both research and therapy."Previous research has shown that more gay men report body image concernsthan heterosexual men, Hausmann noted, and it's possible that these studiesover-represented gay men with eating disorders, or other body imageproblems.Alternatively, he suggested, gay men may simply be more "open" about theirbodies, allowing them to freely discuss their concerns. "As a result of thisopenness, gay men may actually have an advantage over straight men in theirability to talk about body image concerns," Hausmann noted.

### Counselors continued

said it was the school counselor's role to counsel gay and lesbian teens, but about 82 percent believed such services should only be offered at the student's request. About 94 percent of counselors from urban schools who had dealt with gay students had been approached directly by those seeking assistance; about 84 percent of counselors in rural schools reported the same.

Even with such a high number of request from students for help with lgbt issues, researchers also point out that most counselors are not skilled enough to assist gay and lesbian students during their teen years.

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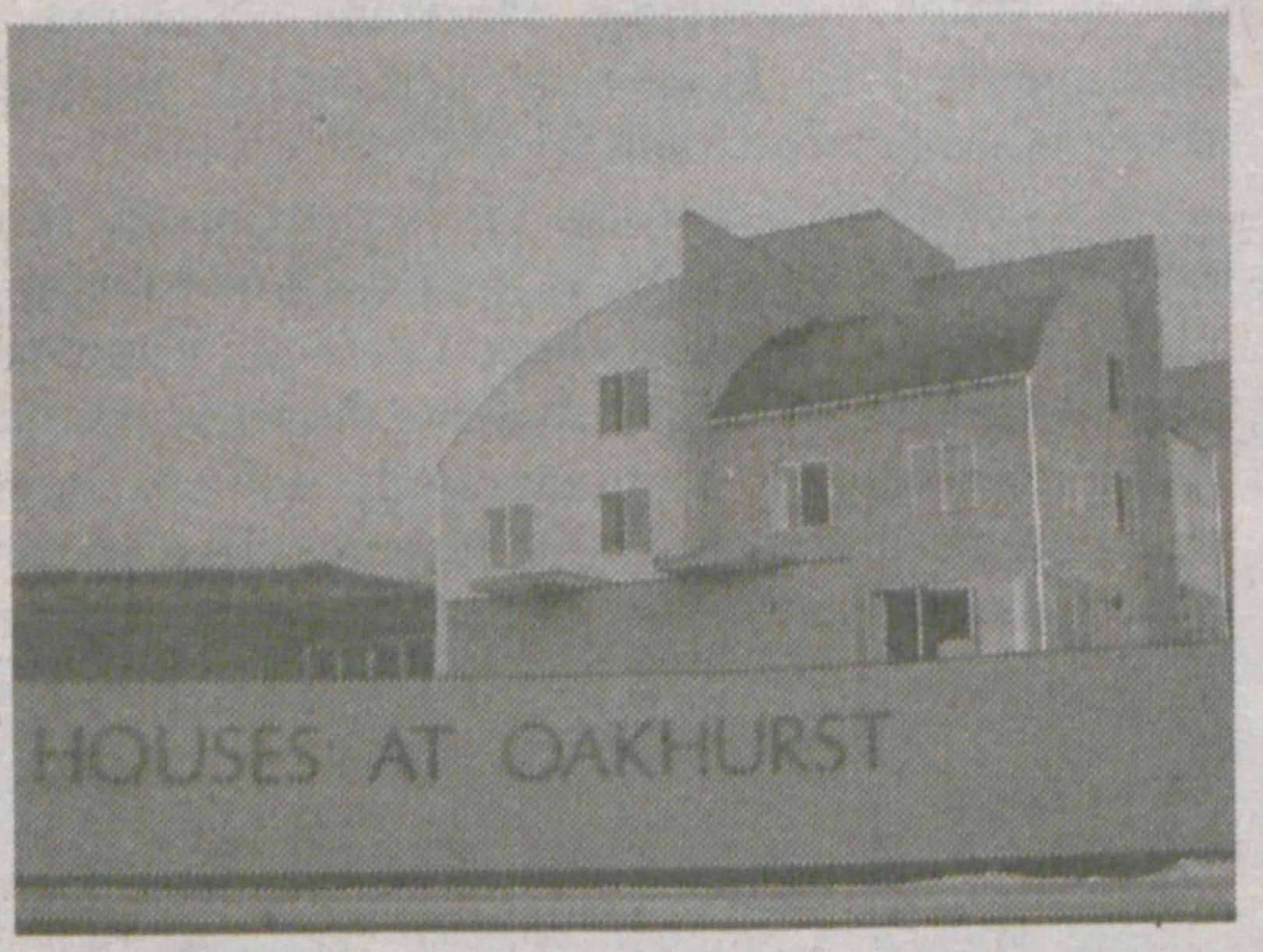
LUXURIOUS LIVING IN CONTEMPORARY ELEGANCE



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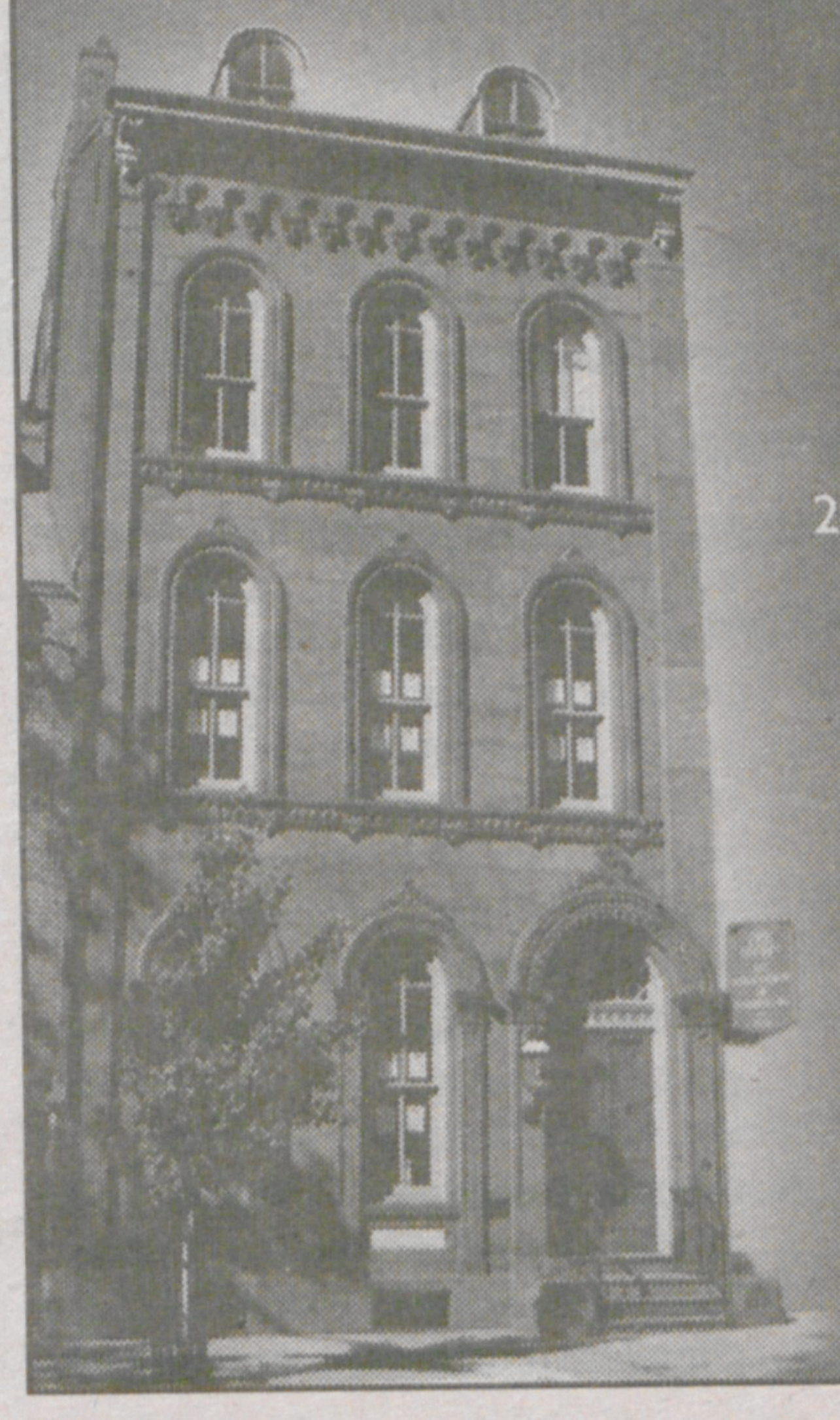
"What's it Worth?" Art & Antique Appraisals, May 1, 1 — 4 pm - $5 admission, $10 per item to be appraised.



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# Men's Health

## by Brian Wolfe, The Fitness Firm

### What to Eat Before & After Exercise

Many people have enough trouble incorporating exercise into their busy lifestyle. Planning meals and snacks around exercise is even more challenging, but it's not as hard as you think.

### Eating Before Exercise

Eating before exercise can have a direct effect on the performance of your exercise routine. It can mean the difference between a productive workout and the feeling of I'd rather be watching TV.

The key is keeping carbohydrates, the body's main source of fuel, readily available.

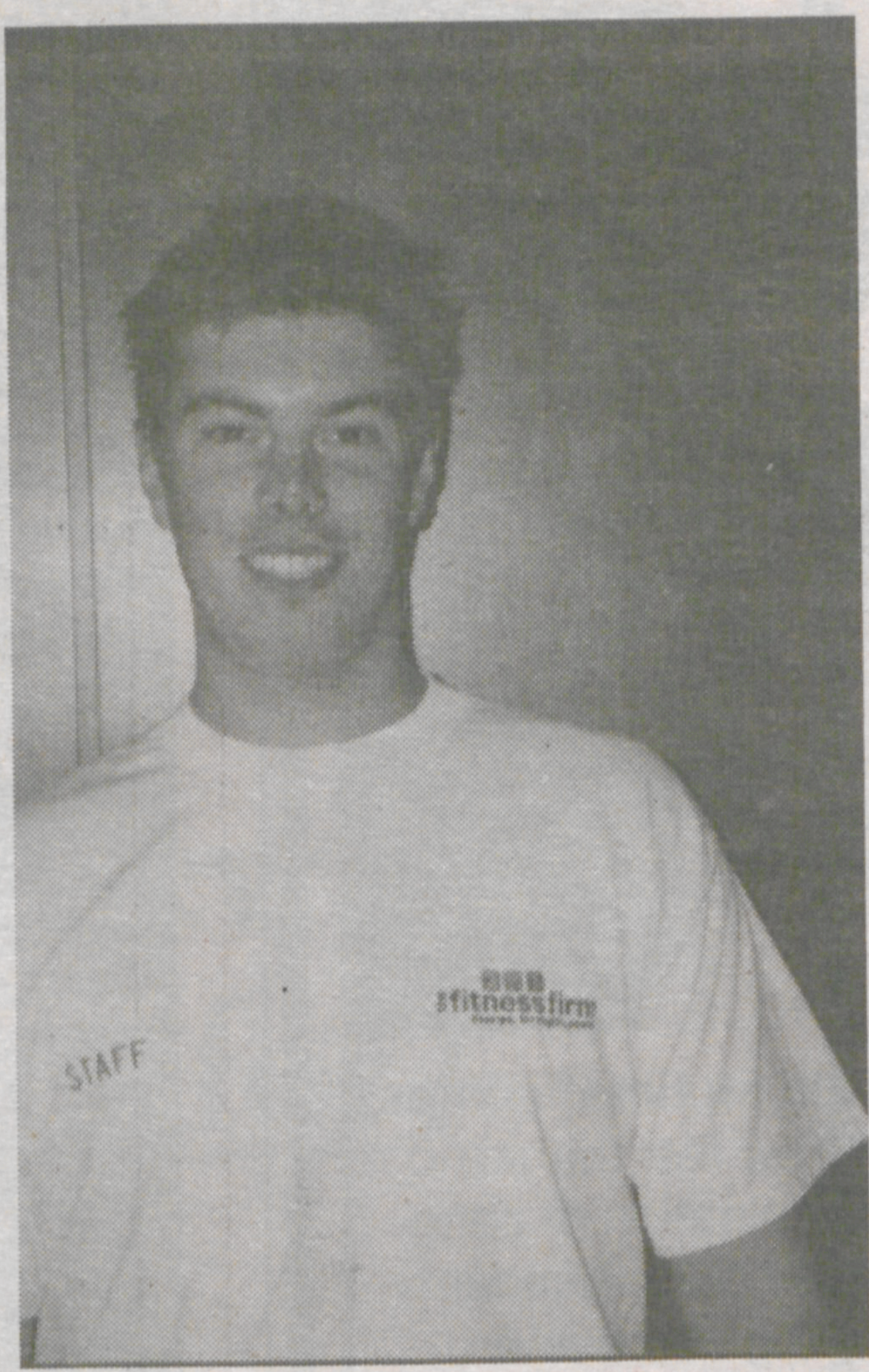
The initial 20 minutes of any cardio routine relies primarily on carbohydrates. Without them, the body will struggle to find an alternate energy source making for a slow drudging workout.

A pre-workout meal should be composed of not only carbohydrates but also protein. Protein causes the body to digest slower making for longer sustain energy levels.

Carbohydrates are found in breads, pastas, fruits, vegetables, and also milk. Rich sources of protein can be found in meats, nuts, beans, and in dairy products. A glass of 1 percent milk with four peanut butter crackers makes for an excellent fuel starter. Also try to keep the pre-workout snack to no more than 200-300 calories approximately one hour prior going to the gym. Large meals immediately before exercise have been shown to hinder performance.

### Eating During Exercise

It is not so much eating during exercise but drinking. What you drink is depended upon the duration of your exercise session. If you exercise one hour or less, water is all you need. Exercise that exceeds one hour may require carbohydrate intake to delay fatigue. Sports drinks are ideal because of quickly absorbed carbohydrate and electrolytes that replenish sweat and blood sugar during exercise.



### Eating After Exercise

Recent research shows that a combination of carbohydrates and protein can help the body recover. Protein helps repair muscle damage, but carbohydrates are optimal when it comes to replenishing carbohydrate stores. The optimal carbohydrate to protein ratio for this effect is four grams of carbohydrate for every one gram of protein. Eating more protein than that, however, has a negative impact because it slows the hydration process.

Protein has other important post-exercise qualities. It provides the amino acids necessary to rebuild muscle tissue that is taxed during intense, prolonged exercise. The amino acids in protein can also stimulate the immune system, making you more resistant to colds and other infections.

After a great workout, a solid food based meal may not seem appealing and will take a considerable time to digest. Smoothies that combine carbohydrates and protein are a great alternative. Something cold and refreshing will seem more appealing and digest faster. That means your body will be able to utilize the nutrients at a quicker rate.

Brian Wolfe, M.S., is the Fitness Director at The Fitness Firm. His fitness research has appeared in The American College of Sports Medicine Journal.

### Boffo Turnout continued

bian, bisexual, transgender, those with HIV/AIDS, young, old, spiritual, agnostic, supporters of our community, and friendly businesses. No one is excluded and all are welcomed to join the effort," said one local activist.

Consultants selected by EGAL formally lead the meeting. Charged with writing up an overall plan by July 2005 on the feasibility of raising funds and opening an lgbt community center are Dering Consulting Group and Sue Rankin and Associates, State College. Dering's Sandy St. George and Marsha Davis, On Track Consulting Services, also will work on the project.

The idea for a community center came together when EGAL, a GHF project, released in 2000 a needs assessment of the region's lgbt community. The single need identified across the board by women, minority, youth, groups and individuals was a community center.

In order to address that identified need, the 62 participants made a list of "key informants" to be contacted by the consultants to complete "focus groups." The groups will determine the specific needs the region's lgbt community and how they might be addressed by the creation of a center. Five confidential, 60-90 minute focus groups, each with seven to 10 individuals, are planned for March 4 and March 5, location TBA.

Interested individuals and organizations may contact Sandy St. George, Dering Consulting Group, 717-234-0567, www.deringconsulting.com; Sue Rankin, sue@rankin-consulting.com.

### Gay Rights continued

ACLU, the National Black Justice Coalition, and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. It also includes Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights both of which are involved in a number of suits to win gay marriage rights.

Other signatories include the Equality Federation, Freedom to Marry, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (which won the Massachusetts gay marriage case), Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute, the Mautner Project, National Association of LGBT Community Centers, the National Center for Transgender Equality, National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the Service members Legal Defense Network and the National Latino/Hispanic LGBT Leadership.

The document notes a recent Gallup Poll that found 89 percent of Americans support equal employment opportunity for gays and lesbians and that other polls show nearly two-thirds support the same opportunities for transgender Americans. But, the statement also says there is a long way to go before the gay community arrives at full equality.

### Counselors continued

"In their professional preparation, I don't believe most of these counselors are getting the training they need to address this issue," said one researcher. An overwhelming majority of counselors surveyed wanted greater access to training and educational programs, with most - 93.5 percent in rural areas and 67.3 percent in urban areas - reporting inadequate resources to assist gay and lesbian students in their communities.

## PSECU, Clear Channel, PHEAA Sponsor

# Bal Masque Winners Pull Out All Stops

Among the 200 in attendance, Vincent Van Gogh (Bill Mabius) was the judges' favorite winner at the Bal Masque held recently by the art Association of Harrisburg at the Hilton Hotel & Towers. Based on the theme "Separated at Birth: Shared Birthdays," The Bal Masque is the association's major fundraiser supporting its children's art classes and adult exhibition programs.

Overall sponsor for of the event was PSECU. Clear Channel was the event's media sponsor. PHEAA served as the printing sponsor.

The popular Impact Band provided dance music. Raffle prizes, provided by the Hilton, Hotel Hershey, and local artist Erna Tunno, were won by Bill Reidlinger, Bill Tauriello, and R. Brian Wilbur.

David Morrison (Leonardo DiCaprio) received the dubious award for "Best Old Guy Playing a Young Guy Playing an Old Guy"! Morrison, who portrayed DiCaprio as Howard Hughes, shares a birthday with him.

Judges gave a "Boobie Prize" to Denise Seiders in her Daryl Hannah mermaid costume, complete with shell brassiere.

In the Singles Category, the judges awarded "Most Outrageous" to The Queen of Hearts, played by Sue Wilbur.

Cathy Mabius, as the English Queen Mary of Teck, wife of George V, received "Best Theme Interpretation."

Brian Wilbur, portraying the Marquis DeLafayette, also received "Best Theme Interpretation."

"Most Comical" award went to none other than S. Geoffrey McDowell who took on the personae of Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin, resplendent in long curly red wig, ripped jeans, and old guitar.

In the Couples Category, "Most Outrageous" were Phil Wenger, born on December 25, as Jesus, with his friend Ben Dunlap, Jr portraying Joseph Smith (with his 26 wives symbolized by 26 Victorian dolls in a basket!)

"Best Theme Interpretation" were Kay and Tom McKee as General and Mrs. Sherman, he in Union Army regalia and she in a vibrant gold satin hoop-skirted gown.

"Most Comical" were Amy and Galen Gish as Dr. Phil and Madonna.

In the Group Category, "Best Theme Interpretation" was awarded to The BeeGees and Their Groupies, aka Kim Dawson, Victoria Zellers, Tiffany Tinsman, Shara Russo, Tena Brown, and Beth Berdofe White of Citizens Bank. "Most Comical" were "We Three Queens" represented by Tonye Donn, Amy Boldosser, and Cindy Boldosser.

Costume judges were Charles Schulz, Peggy Grove, Barbara Skelly, Stuart Weiser, and George West.

Also present were Queen Marie Antoinette of France (Carrie Wissler-Thomas), King Louis XIV of France, Liberace, Clark Gable, Jack Dempsey, Peggy Lee, Rudolph Nuryev, Carrie Nation,Jerry Hall,Frank Sinatra, Ferdinand and Cerynice Waldmuller, and Miss America Mary Ann Mobley.

The 2006 Bal Masque is Saturday, January 28, Hilton Hotel & Towers, Harrisburg. Information: 717-236-1432.

Carrie Wissler-Thomas (Marie Antoinette), major diva of the region's art community, hosts 200 guests at Bal Masque.

Flapper Tracey Meloni and her gent Bob Meloni relax tableside.

Art Association of Harrisburg Board Member Nancy O'Halloran with Downtown Improvement District Chairman S. Geoffrey McDowell as Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant.

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Below listed schedule of events
for March/April

By Debbie Swanger – Watch for this artist at the May 21st Gallery Saturday

- Saturday – March 19th 2005

"Gallery Saturday"
Open wine and cheese artist reception.
6pm - 9pm.
Featured local artist: Deborah Peters
The 1st Floor Artist Studios,
It's a Wrap Gift Gallery and Coffee Shop will also be open.
Free admission. Open to the public.
Everyone welcome!

- Saturday – April 16th 2005

"Gallery Saturday"
Open wine and cheese artist reception.
6pm - 9pm.
Featured local artist: John Firestone and our 1st Floor Artists
The 1st Floor Artist Studios, It's a Wrap Gift Gallery and Coffee Shop will also be open.
Free admission. Open to the public. Everyone welcome!

Please see our complete list and new events at our Web Site:
www.2ndfloorgallery.com

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## Event Calendar
**MARCH**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Every | Friday | 7PM | Queer As Folk Party* |
| 3 | Thursday | 7PM | Movie Night |
| 9 | Wednesday | 7PM | Men's Discussion Group* |
| 12 | Saturday | 7PM | Wine Tasting Party* |
| 17 | Thursday | 7PM | Movie Night |
| 19 | Saturday | 9PM | Promotion at Stallions |

* Must sign up to attend

**APRIL**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Every | Friday | 7PM | Queer As Folk Party* |
| 7 | Thursday | 7PM | Movie Night |
| 9 | Saturday | all day | Coffee House Party |
| 13 | Wednesday | 7PM | Men's Discussion Group* |
| 16 | Saturday | 9PM | Promotion at Stallions |
| 21 | Thursday | 7PM | Movie Night |
| 23 | Saturday | 7PM | Financial Freedom 101* |

* Must sign up to attend

Check Our Website for an Up-To-Date Calendar of Events

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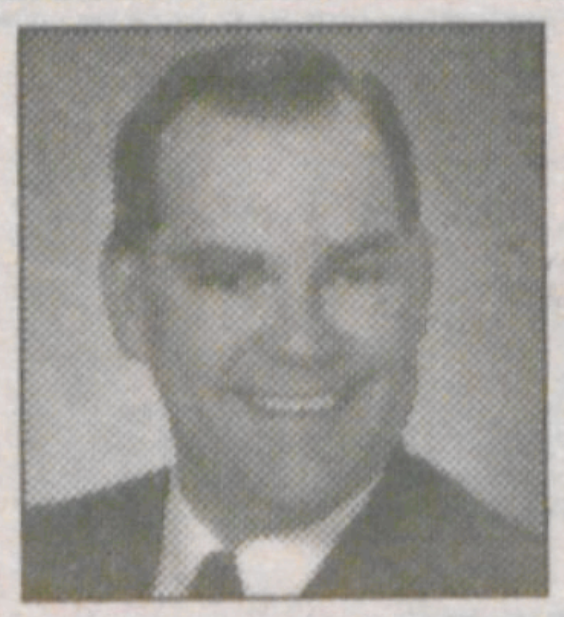

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### *Stonewall Democrats continued*

experience, Miller is a small business owner. He started an accounting firm in 1990 after being fired because of his sexual orientation.

"Whether you live in the City of Harrisburg or outside city limits, voters can help a good candidate win a seat on Harrisburg City Council. Miller will work to improve quality of life in the city that serves as the core of the region's economy," Turner says. "His personal experience with blatant discrimination as a minority citizen increased his sensitivity to the unique circumstances and needs of all citizens. Last, but not least, Miller would be the first openly gay elected official in Pennsylvania's capital city," adds co-chair Judy Chambers.Miller's campaign website is www.friendsofdanmiller.com. Campaign donations are being accepted at: Friends of Dan Miller, P.O. Box 11541, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

### Anti-Gay Amendments Expected

Conservatives in the Pennsylvania legislature are expected to renew attempts to ban domestic partner benefits for state employees and adoptions by gay people. Observers also expect legislators to insert anti-gay amendments into the state budget, which could pass as early as March. "Most troubling, legislators are expected to push a state constitution amendment banning same-sex marriage," Turner says. Pennsylvania already has a 1996 law on its books defining marriage as between a "man and a woman." As in other states, the Pennsylvania amendment would likely ban the possibility of civil unions or domestic-partner registries as well as equal benefits for same-sex couples, and "could even threaten the legitimacy of legal contracts between same-sex couples," Chambers points out

CRSD is working with other groups to pass gay-positive laws and fight these attempts at discrimination. Individuals and organizations interested in joining the effort can contact CRSD at P.O. Box 200, Harrisburg, PA 17108, HYPERLINK "mailto:crstonewalldems@yahoo.com" crstonewalldems@yahoo.com, (717) 232-8382.

### Show Anti-Bush Pride

As President Bush continues making bad decisions, local Stonewall Democrats continue to sell "Don't Blame Me - I Voted for Kerry" bumper stickers letting everyone know Kerry voters are not responsible for four more years. The blue and white stickers match Pennsylvania's status as a "blue state" that voted Democratic in the last four presidential elections. The stickers also allow Penn State University fans to express their team pride. Stickers cost $3 for one or $5 for two and can be ordered by writing: CRSD, P.O. Box 200, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

### Membership

Membership: $30, individual; $50, couple or family (two votes in CRSD decisions); $10, student/low-income. Make out checks to Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, P.O. Box 200, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

At press time, CRSD refused to confirm rumors that SpongeBob SquarePants will be showing up at one of their events in the near future.

## Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing Receives $1 Million

Los Angeles-based Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing received a $1 million gift from the Annenberg Foundation to support the building of Encore Hall, the nation's first nonprofit, affordable housing development that includes a community service center supporting the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender older adults, both residents and non-residents.

The $1 million gift from the Annenberg Foundation will be used to fund construction of the $18.6 million 104-unit building, which is designed to house individuals of mixed incomes under an affordable housing model, with 30 percent of the units set aside for people who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or who are living with HIV/AIDS.

"This is a historic day for our community and for those who have worked tirelessly on its behalf," said Brian Neimark, executive director of Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing. "The extraordinary generosity of Wallis Annenberg and the Annenberg Foundation sends a message of reassurance to elder gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people with lower incomes that they will not be forgotten."

The Annenberg Foundation represents the lead naming gift of Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing's Capital Campaign. "We hope this gift will provide important options for elders in our community and will make a real and lasting difference in the lives of those who will live in Encore Hall," said Wallis Annenberg.

An estimated 30,000 to 75,000 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgen-

continued on page 11

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# Why Are High School Gay Groups Controversial?

**By Trum Simmons**

Why all the controversy over high school student lgbt groups? From the stories regularly surfacing in the media, you'd think the idea were more threatening than the teaching of evolution. A few of our local districts have started such groups, but others are not about to: they're too controversial, and controversy is bad for education, they say.

If it's controversial to make a statement about the need for folks to stop the labeling and stereotyping that continue to pervade our educational institutions, then so be it.

Perhaps there is less of it today than when I was in high school and college, but I'm not so sure. Back then, those who were "different" really were treated differently, whereas today I think we are moving - too slowly, perhaps - toward a more open and affirming society in general. This shows in my students at HACC each year, who definitely are more accepting of other cultures and value systems than they were say, 20 years ago.

The local school districts and colleges are making some efforts in this regard, and much more work needs to be done. Groups like Common Roads didn't exist in Harrisburg when I arrived in 1971; today Common Roads gets strong support from many in the local communities and has been instrumental in helping schools see the need for supporting student lgbt organizations.

Student lgbt groups are necessary in secondary schools for several reasons, many of which are the same as the reasons for African-American and Christian or Muslim organizations, for example. And lgbt groups, as far as I know, are always open to all, regardless of sexual orientation or ideology. Student groups have been formed around common interests for decades, so what's the problem?

Our Allies organization at your friendly local community college brings everyone together in a common cause. The group is lgbtq (the "q" is for those questioning) and includes "straight" supporters. To understand the importance of such a club, just visit a class during Coming Out Day every October when lgbtq students share their experiences with those who have never heard such stories first hand. The response has always been positive, including lots of thoughtful questions.

At HACC we also now have a course in lesbian and gay studies, something that would have been impossible in the early years of the college. Yet our schools and colleges can do much more. What needs to happen is that those of us in the vanguard of educational change must keep the faith and fight the fight. It is too easy to become complacent and accept limited gains; lgbt courses and student Allies groups are not enough and continue to be seen by many in the mainstream as simply quirky or colorful.

Teachers and professors need to see that lgbt perspectives are included in all courses and programs, not just the few. More lesbian and gay faculty and staff need to be out and open with their colleagues, and more of their straight friends need to be out and open in their advocacy. The status quo may be better than it was a couple of decades ago, but it is still the status quo, and that's never good enough when we're talking about social justice.

## Lesbian Notions:
# Susan Sontag & Annie Leibovitz

**by Paula Martinac**

When celebrated American thinker and writer Susan Sontag died recently, her obituaries all noted her marriage in the 1950s to Philip Rieff and the son they had together. In a double standard that seems odd now that obituaries routinely acknowledge same-sex survivors, few media outlets touched on her intimate relationships with women - including one with photographer Annie Leibovitz that lasted almost three times longer than Sontag's heterosexual marriage.

A big part of this omission has to do with Sontag's fierce, lifelong rejection of the identities of lesbian or bisexual - or "queer," a term that even some academically chic straight people have claimed. The media, then, can simply say they're respecting Sontag's "privacy." But the other part of the silence about Sontag's sexuality has to do with the limited and negative way U.S. culture defines the word "lesbian" - notably when it is coupled with "writer."

Sontag's refusal to acknowledge her sexuality went way beyond the desire for privacy; it was also about the desire for power and influence. After all, being a lesbian writer - or even just a writer who is a lesbian - has not been a wise career choice in our culture. In fact, it's been almost a guarantee of obscurity, with a few notable exceptions like novelist Rita Mae Brown and playwright Paula Vogel.

A big obstacle for lesbian writers is that the concept of "lesbian" still brings to people's biased minds an image of dumpy women who dress badly and hate men - and who wants to hear what they have to say? Curiously, many of the same obituaries that skipped over Sontag's sexuality extolled her glamour and attractiveness, her "luxurious" hair and "ravishing" smile - traits not commonly associated with lesbians.

Because of the prevailing stereotype of lesbians, then, many straight people - and some gay men, too - have decided that our writing couldn't possibly possess the depth and breadth of that of

continued below

### Parenthood continued

challenges faced by women in developing countries who attempt to provide food, shelter, and stability for their children. It is our hope that both the President and Congress hear our message and reaffirm our country's commitment," Greelish Cody says."

Challenges faced by women are most often a matter of life and death. 515,000 women die each year. Most of the deaths are as a result of pregnancy or childbirth. Another 30 to 40 percent of infant deaths are a result of poor care during pregnancy and delivery. These deaths could be avoided with improved maternal health, adequate nutrition and health care during pregnancy and appropriate care during childbirth.

bitter girl
buddy system failure
MAN, IT'S RAINING FROGS OUT THERE!
PERFECT NIGHT TO HUNKER DOWN IN OUR BACHELORETTE PAD, HUH, PAL?
YESSIR! JUST THE TWO OF US—LYING AROUND IN DIRTY SWEATPANTS, ORDERING IN FOOD WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO COOK, AND WATCHIN' LOTSA BAD TV!
UM, SORRY, CAN'T DO IT TONIGHT ....
...KRISTA'S BACK FROM TORONTO! WE'RE GOING TO DO LAUNDRY, MAKE THREE-CHEESE FONDUE AND STEAK AU POIVRE, AND GO CLUBBING! GOD, I MISSED HER!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
WELL, I HOPE YOU BROUGHT CHIPS, 'CUZ YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE DIP.
SLAM!
JOAN HILTY ©2005 kaibito1@aol.com

### Lesbian Notations continued

straight and gay male writers, whose art is expansive and "universal." (Lesbians are often dismissed simply as purveyors of girl-on-girl romances, although heterosexual romance is a staple of straight publishing.) In a telling comment on the limited reach of even the most well-known lesbian writers, Sontag claimed never to have heard of Camille Paglia when the latter excoriated her in an essay titled "Sontag, Bloody Sontag."

To quote her obituaries, Sontag was indeed "fearless" and "a hero" - she achieved fame as a critical thinker in a culture that has rarely associated intellectualism with women. But still, she was terrified of being construed as a dyke. When Carl Rollyson and Lisa Paddock detailed her same-sex liaisons in their unauthorized biography of her, she threatened legal action. The authors and their publisher didn't back down, so Sontag circumvented the supposed damage the book would cause by writing about her sexuality in _The New Yorker_ as an "open secret" - a gratingly offhand phrase used by outed celebrities who had absolutely no intention of coming out on their own. ("What? Oh, that! Gee, I thought everybody knew.")

In a strange way, though, Sontag's closeted-ness is less annoying than the fact that some famous gay male writers, themselves out for many years, have deemed her sexuality inconsequential. Larry Kramer, for example, called Sontag an "'Intellectual' with a capital 'I,'" who was "beyond being a lesbian" and didn't belong in "that category" (my emphasis). Edmund White saw her as "first and foremost a citizen" (lesbians aren't citizens?), a woman for whom identity politics were too "provincial." Even radical Michael Bronski wrote an extensive tribute to Sontag, rhapsodizing about her intellectual achievements on such gay-interest topics as camp culture and AIDS, but jarringly avoiding the question of her own queerness.

It's hard to imagine, however, that any contemporary gay male writer would opt to keep his sexuality under wraps for career purposes - and what's more, that he would be casually excused by other gay writers for doing so. Would Larry Kramer really label any prominent man known to have sex with other men as "beyond being gay"? It's doubtful, since the phrase reduces "gay" to something trifling and inconsequential (like, say, "lesbian"). If you have any doubts, just contrast Kramer's thoughts about Sontag with his passionate attempts to "gay" Abraham Lincoln - even though the latter lived in an era when the concept of "gay" didn't exist and there was no sexual identity as we know it today.

Sadly, all this points to the fact that lesbian writers experience a peculiar double sexism - not just as women, who have a more difficult time being taken seriously as writers and thinkers than men do; but also as women who are independent of men.

*Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.*

---

### Elder Housing continued

der older adults reside in the greater Los Angeles area (based on a range of 3 to 8 percent of the total aging population).

Contact: Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing, Brian Neimark, 323-954-3900; bneimark@gleh.org

## People of Color Important
# Surviving Being Black and Gay

**By Jasmyne Cannick**

So now we know that we have, at most, four more years with President Bush. We also know that the issue of gay marriage played a pivotal role in his re-election. Okay, let's get over it, re-group and get back out there.

America's lgbt leadership, whether they like it or not, before attempting to the move the marriage agenda forward again, had better bring people of color to the table from day one. We cannot and will not be the afterthought when organizations need to publicly display diversity. We need to be included from the beginning.

I don't ever want to see a white gay man stand before a camera again and equate his struggle to the black civil rights movement. It doesn't help the thousands of black gays who are also trying to message to the African-American community around this issue and only further divides our community with blacks seeing gay as a white issue.

When you talk about messaging to communities of color, in particular the black community, that message would be better received coming from an African-American same- gender loving person to the black community.

The executive leaders of our lgbt organizations need to take a closer look at the diversity within their own organizations for 2005. It's not enough to have programs headed by people of color for people of color. People of color need to be on the communications team and the development team as well. The reason that most gay organizations can't penetrate the black press is because you don't have a black person on your communications team pitching the black press.

Why don't African-Americans donate to your organization? Well, part of the reason is that you don't have African-Americans on your development team. The other reason is that blacks don't typically feel that these national gay organizations have their community's best interest at heart. There is work that needs to be done.

Now I know this is going to be hard for some to swallow. Why? Because the gay leadership seems to think that what works for the white community will work for all communities. Not so. These organizations are going to have to invest in people of color to have a winning strategy. This includes the same salary, benefits and support that you give your other team members.

Having worked for one of the largest and well funded gay organizations in the country, I can tell you first hand the feeling of isolation within an organization when you are the token black hired only to work with the black community. Aside from my position, my views, opinions and ideas in other areas of the organization were not needed. Consequently, this organization does not have any credibility in the black gay community today and is till scratching their heads trying to figure out why.

At the end of the day, blacks played the most powerful role in the 2005 election and most of the gay organizations were unable to message to the African-American community around the issue of gay marriage. Thank God for the National Black Justice Coalition, an ad hoc coalition of black lgbt leaders who came together this year to message directly to the African-American community on this issue.

America's gay leadership is going to have to develop a whole new approach to addressing marriage equality. What I learned, as well as many other black same-gender loving persons, is that we cannot even begin to address marriage equality until we first address black sexuality and homophobia.

I think a lot of black gays jumped aboard the marriage train because our voices were excluded from the conversation in the beginning. Black pastors were being used by right wing conservatives to message to the black community. In the end, a couple of things happened in 2004. First, black gays were represented more in the media this year, including black media than ever before in history. That means we were visible in our own community which is a huge accomplishment.

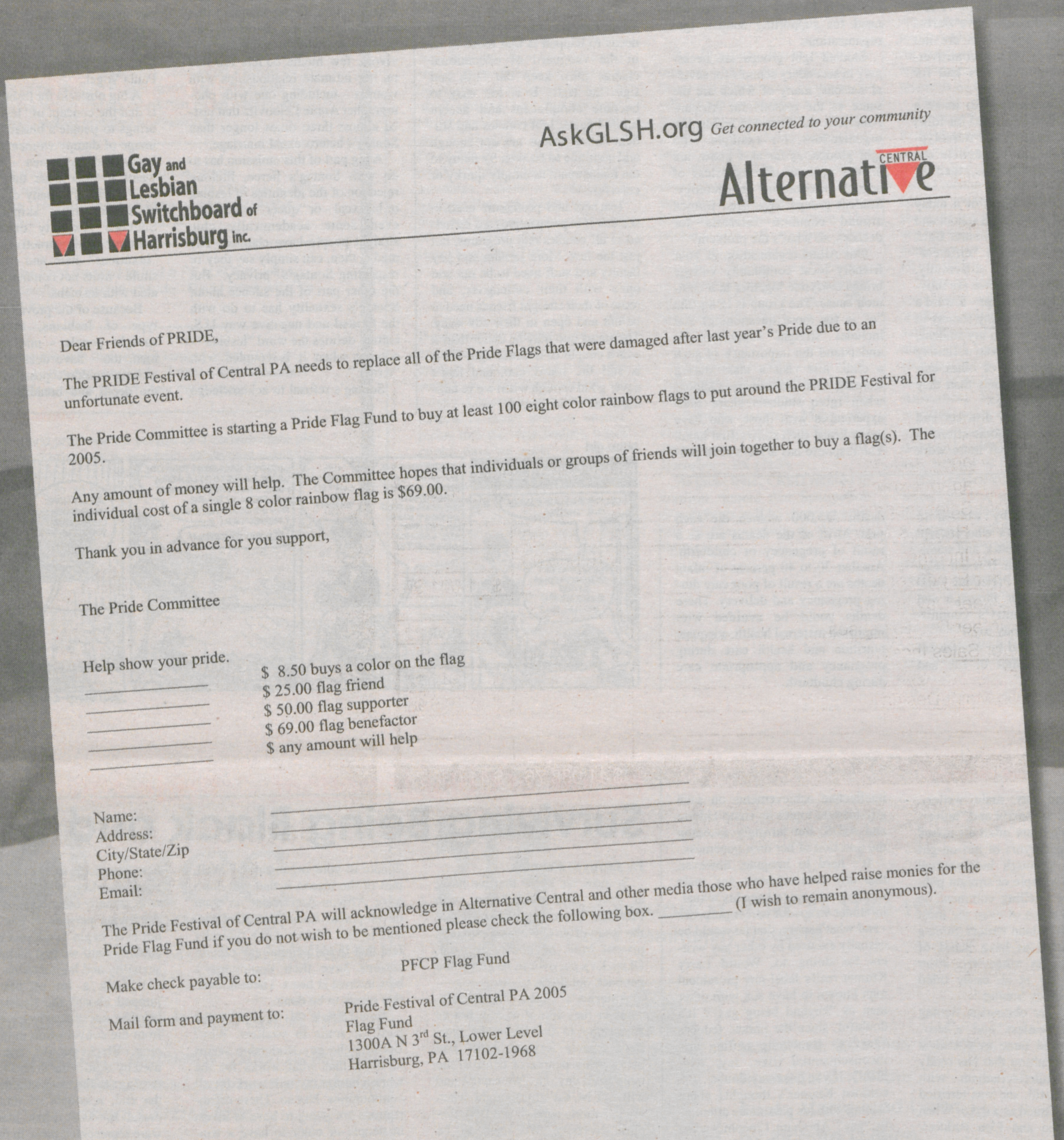
Next, more black lgbt persons mobilized around this issue than ever before. Again, I feel this is because our community was being used to win votes for the GOP and it was so blatant that even those of us that are not active, had to get out there.

Diversity means more than just having people of color on your website and over people of color programs. It means having the influence and perspectives of people of color at every level in your organization and movement. That way we can tell you what works and doesn't work in our communities both gay and at large. The lgbt community cannot push forward without gays of color and together we need to develop a strategy that works towards addressing lgbt issues in all communities.

*Reprinted from Proud Parenting*

*Jasmyne Cannick appears on radio and television, including*

continued on page 14



**Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg Inc.**

AskGLSH.org *Get connected to your community*

**Alternative CENTRAL**

Dear Friends of PRIDE,

The PRIDE Festival of Central PA needs to replace all of the Pride Flags that were damaged after last year's Pride due to an unfortunate event.

The Pride Committee is starting a Pride Flag Fund to buy at least 100 eight color rainbow flags to put around the PRIDE Festival for 2005.

Any amount of money will help. The Committee hopes that individuals or groups of friends will join together to buy a flag(s). The individual cost of a single 8 color rainbow flag is $69.00.

Thank you in advance for you support,

The Pride Committee

Help show your pride.

_________ $ 8.50 buys a color on the flag
_________ $ 25.00 flag friend
_________ $ 50.00 flag supporter
_________ $ 69.00 flag benefactor
_________ $ any amount will help

Name: _________________________
Address: _________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________
Phone: _________________________
Email: _________________________

The Pride Festival of Central PA will acknowledge in Alternative Central and other media those who have helped raise monies for the Pride Flag Fund if you do not wish to be mentioned please check the following box. _________ (I wish to remain anonymous).

Make check payable to: PFCP Flag Fund

Mail form and payment to:

Pride Festival of Central PA 2005
Flag Fund
1300A N 3rd St., Lower Level
Harrisburg, PA 17102-1968

**About the Switchboard**

**The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that operates an information resource center for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities of Central Pennsylvania. The Switchboard operates a telephone and internet information services and conducts other special projects to deliver information about, and to, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. The Switchboard resource information covers all Central Pennsylvania regions. Alternative Central publication is published by the Gay and Lesbian Swicthboard of Harrisburg, Inc.**

**GLSH, 1300A North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102 Telephone: 717.234.0328 Website: www.AskGLSH.org**
**Email: info@AskGLSH.org**

# Pride Financial Report

## Pride 03

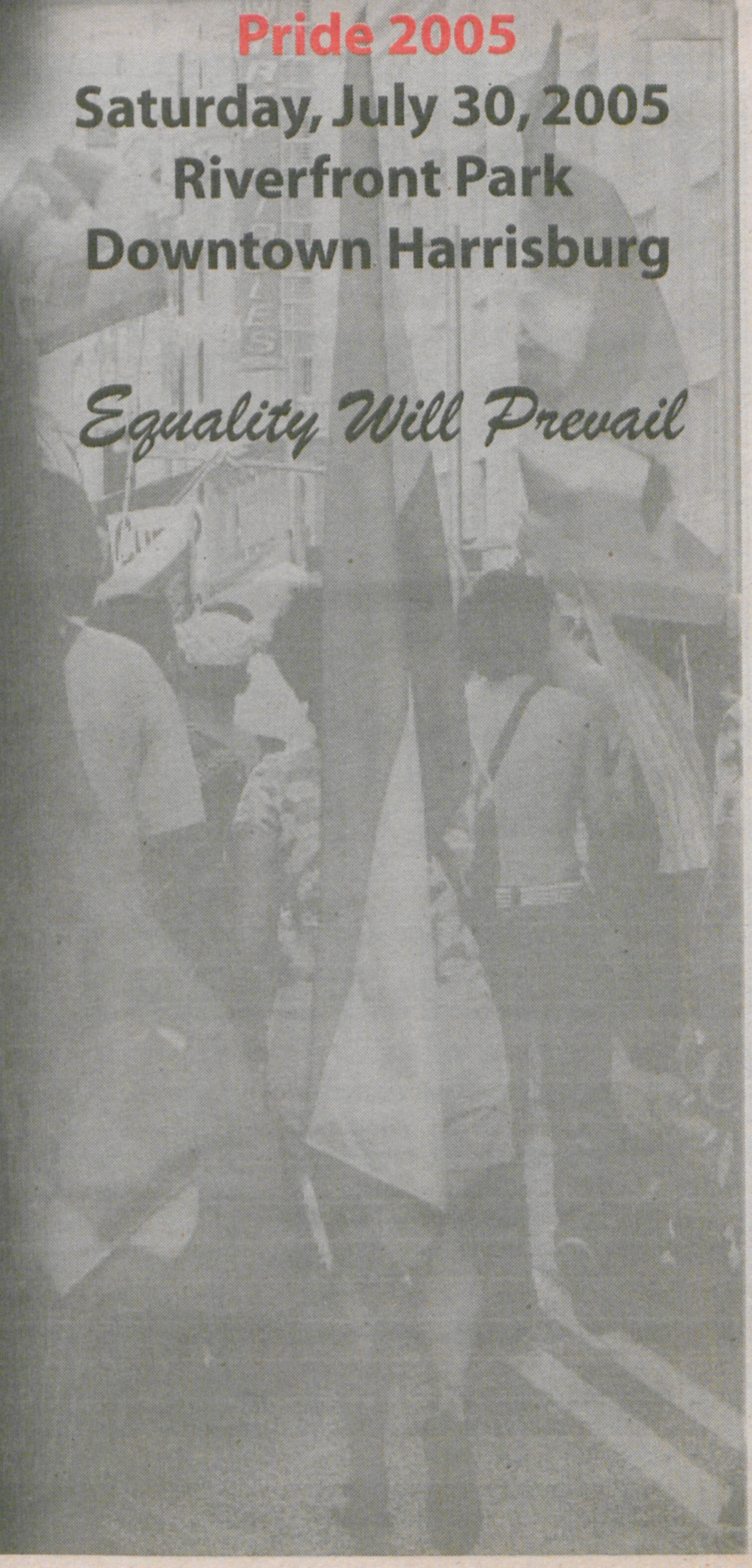
*Income / Expenses*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Accounting/Legal Expenses | | $ 375.00 |
| Attendance Gate | $ 16,709.00 | |
| Attendance Tax | | $ 1,671.00 |
| Advertising Expenses | | $ 1,206.81 |
| Bank Charges Income | $ 45.00 | |
| Bank Charges Expenses | | $ 96.36 |
| Commitment Ceremony Expenses | | $ 220.40 |
| Conference | | $ 1,116.15 |
| Day of Unity Celebration-Donations | $ 744.00 | |
| Day of Unity Celebration-Expenses | | $ 2,678.85 |
| Donations | $ 1,807.00 | |
| Film Festival Income | $ 305.76 | |
| Film Festival Expenses | | $ 738.41 |
| Fundraising-Buy A Rainbow | $ 2,896.00 | |
| Fundraising-Buy A Rainbow-Expenses | | $ 1,511.08 |
| Fundraising-Cabaret Stage | $ 6,064.00 | |
| Grants to other non-profits | | $ 2,051.42 |
| Entertainment Expenses | | $ 5,196.75 |
| Event Day Expenses | | $ 14,176.32 |
| Licenses/Permits Expenses | | $ 670.00 |
| Newsletter | | $ 838.96 |
| Office Expenses | | $ 4,377.56 |
| Organizational Sponsorships | $ 900.00 | |
| Organizational Dues/Expenses | | $ 250.00 |
| Pride Poster Sales Income | $ 20.00 | |
| Pride Pagent Income | $ 987.00 | |
| Pride Pagent Expenses | | $ 433.17 |
| T-Shirt Sales Income | $ 30.00 | |
| Vendor Health & Merc Income | $ 375.00 | |
| Vendor Income | $ 10,065.00 | |
| Vendor Expenses | | $ 1,001.99 |
| Volunteer Day Income | $ 2.00 | |
| Volunteer Day Expenses | | $ 880.23 |
| Water Sales Income | $ 89.00 | |
| Water Expenses | | $ 242.32 |
| Web Maint/Design | | $ 1,305.98 |
| | | |
| | | |
| Totals | $ 41,038.76 | $ 41,038.76 |

## Pride 04

*Income / Expenses*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Accounting/Legal Expenses | | $ 375.00 |
| Attendance Gate | $ 22,222.00 | |
| Attendance Tax | | $ 2,221.80 |
| Advertising Expenses | | $ 2,215.58 |
| Bank Charges Expenses | | $ 43.81 |
| Commitment Ceremony Expenses | $ 320.00 | $ 564.92 |
| Donations | $ 1,195.00 | |
| Drag Calender | $ 645.00 | $ 2,166.50 |
| Friday PrePride Event Party | | $ 2,648.23 |
| Fundraising-Buy A Rainbow | $ 523.00 | |
| Fundraising-Buy A Rainbow-Expenses | | $ 461.95 |
| Fundraising-Cabaret Stage | $ 3,455.00 | |
| Grants to other non-profits | | $ 2,648.22 |
| Entertainment Expenses | | $ 4,505.20 |
| Event Day Expenses | | $ 16,351.68 |
| Licenses/Permits Expenses | | $ 1,195.00 |
| Office Expenses | | $ 1,163.72 |
| Organizational Sponsorships | $ 600.00 | |
| Organizational Dues/Expenses | | $ 175.00 |
| Pride Pagent Income | $ 563.00 | |
| Pride Pagent Expenses | | $ 533.94 |
| Storage | | $ 1,451.52 |
| Vendor Income | $ 11,303.00 | |
| Vendor Expenses | | $ 631.71 |
| Volunteer Day Expenses | | $ 509.57 |
| Water Expenses | | $ 110.40 |
| Web Maint/Design | | $ 852.25 |
| | | |
| | | |
| Totals | $ 40,826.00 | $ 40,826.00 |



**Pride 2005**
**Saturday, July 30, 2005**
**Riverfront Park**
**Downtown Harrisburg**

*Equality Will Prevail*

# Sharpton Says Bush Used Gays

President Geroge W. Bush inappropriately exploited religious feelings against gay marriage during his re-election bid, former presidential candidate Al Sharpton said recently. He made a presidential campaign visit to Harrisburg in 2004.

"I think George Bush manipulated a lot of religious feelings about marriage when the president has little or nothing to do with marriage," Sharpton said at Atlanta's Butler Street CME Church about Jesus forgiving a woman accused of adultery.

Sharpton said Bush also used the gay marriage issue to draw attention from charges that he botched the Iraq war and was ignoring domestic problems.

"The president cannot order what marriage is for men or women," Sharpton said. He said the 2004 election "was not the place" for a debate on moral issues.

"It was the place for a debate on Iraq, he's in charge of the military; health care, he's in charge of that; on Social Security, he's in charge of that," Sharpton said. "But we should not relinquish the morality of the church to the office of president. He has nothing to do with that."

Sharpton, also said he believes black people may drift further from the Democrats unless leaders reward black party members with key posts. "We cannot be taken for granted, and we cannot been seen as automatically being there when others who abandon the party are rewarded and we are not," he said.

# College Students at Risk for HIV

**By Faatima Gureshi**

Half of the newly infected HIV population is under the age of 25, and the disease is a becoming a big concern on college campuses.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States, about 70 percent among men and 30 percent among women. While students may be aware of the risks, they do not always act on this knowledge in terms of safe-sex practices.

"Generally, students are not concerned about [HIV/AIDS]," Director of Health Education Susan Villari said. "I think they perceive other students to be low-risk on Penn's campus. Ninety percent of the time, students are not using protection with oral sex," Villari said. "Viruses - including HIV - can be transmitted orally."

According to Ian Frank, associate professor of medicine in the infectious diseases division of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, HIV infection is a concern on college campuses. "There are colleges in North Carolina where they're having mini-epidemics of HIV transmission," Frank said. "HIV is alive and is potentially on every college campus in the country." Penn's Division of Infectious Diseases currently treats approximately eight hundred patients, ranging in age from late teens to late seventies.

"Most of the younger people we take care of are men who have had sex with men," Frank said. "They think [that] becoming HIV-infected is not going to happen to them. Either they don't know people with HIV or they may think that there are a lot of treatment options available, so they are willing to take the risk."

However, heterosexual women are also very much at risk for HIV infection.

"We are working to dispel the mythology that it's just gay men," Director of the Penn Women's Center Elena Di Lapi said, referring to initiatives targeting women on campus. "Our concern is that people may not understand how much they're at risk, particularly among college students."

The female population, in particular, has seen increased rates of infection over the past few years.

"Women represent the population where [HIV] infection is increasing more rapidly," Frank said. "A lot of young heterosexuals don't think they are at risk. There may be a false sense of security among younger women."

Many feel that education is key in preventing the spread of HIV. "Given how conservative some areas of this country are, I wouldn't be surprised if people weren't getting formally educated [about HIV/AIDS]," Frank said.

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### Black and Gay continued

*Black Entertainment Television News, the Tavis Smiley Show, Fox News and Bev Smith Show. She ideas have been featured in articles by the Associated Press, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, St. Petersburg Times, Africana.com and BET.com. She co-produces the cable series Noah's Arc, America's first gay and gay series.*

# Morality Index

***Protecting Marriage?*** Local state Rep. Mark S. McNaughton – one of two representatives who unsuccessfully introduced anti-gay amendments last year – owes $39,490 for child support, according to Dauphin County Domestic Relations Office. He is appealing an order that he pay $3,642 monthly, more than the $2,089 currently paid. A deposition from his divorce indicates between 2000 and late 2003, McNaughton conducted a three-year relationship with a women who stated she met him as a 19-year-old campaign volunteer. Those who can do. Those who can't preach.

***Got Meds?*** "Focus on the Family" founder called the popular SpongeBob video "pro-homosexual." Mark Barondess, lawyer for the "We Are Family Foundation" – created by the author of the 1979 disco hit "We Are Family" told the media that critics of the video "need medication." Is there a medication for Gay on the Brain Syndrome?

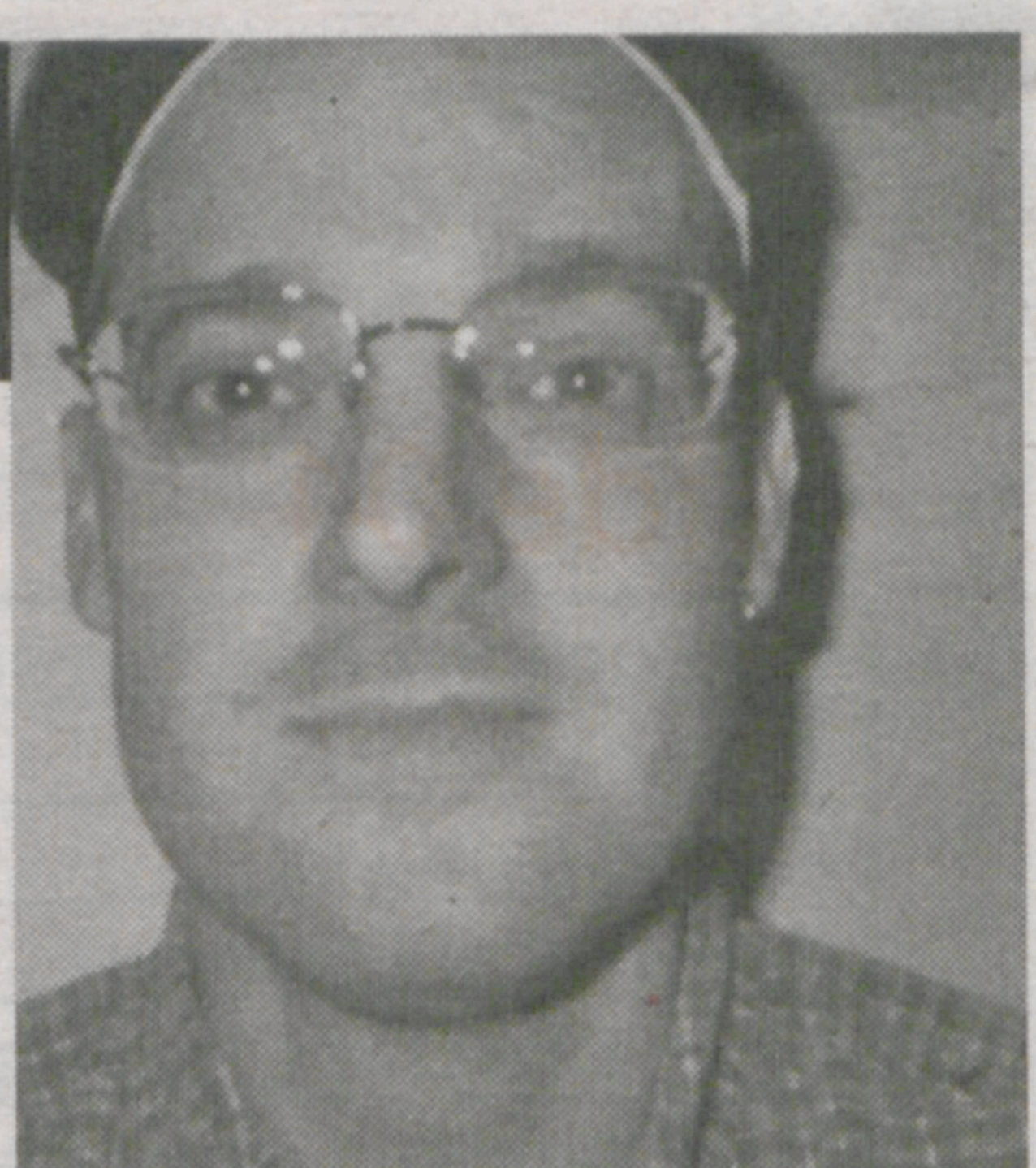
***Are All Homophobes Gay?*** Anti-gay, conservative commentator Armstrong Williams accepted $240,000 to promote No Child Left Behind. He never disclosed the deal as he promoted the policy in the media. Interesting tidbit: Between commercials on a television appearance with a Human Rights Campaign representative, Williams said, "I know who I am and I know what I like. I'm a man and I'm comfortable with who I am." Lexis-Nexis reveals that in 1997, former male employee Stephen Gregory sued Williams for $200,000 accusing him of sexual harassment. Gregory alleged Williams kissed his mouth, fondled his fanny, groped his groin and climbed into bed with him on business trips. Williams denied being gay and fired Gregory after his advances were rebuffed. The case was reportedly settled out of court in 1999.

***Related to the Weasel?*** Dover School District notwithstanding, maybe Darwin was correct – we are related to animals, perhaps weasels. Ohio supporters of a ban on gay marriage wanted to remain anonymous. An effort to reveal the bans financial backers was stymied by anti-gay crusader Phil Burress. He was hiding anti-marriage contributors by passing money through his other non-profit enterprises that aren't required to disclose such contributions under Ohio law. He says it is legal to do so. But, is it the born-again, Christian thing to do?

continued on page 16

# Music Review

## DJ Barry Reviews Past & Present



Let's do a blast from the past with some artist and groups we got to know growing up.

### *Staying alive*

They are still alive. Those of you listening to radio have noticed some groups and artists from the past bouncing back onto the scene recently. Just a few months ago Duran Duran, U2, and the Cure's Robert Smith all popped up letting know they are still alive.

### *Billy Idol*

During March and April, we will see more famous people from the past back in action once again. Billy Idol is back with the CD "Devil's Playground." Billy has been working on the CD for three full years. It will focus all on new song with a new updated sound for Mr. Idol.

### *Tori Amos*

Tori Amos will release the CD "The Beekeeper." This one returns the quirky singer to the same whimsical terrain of 1992's "Little Earthquakes", but with much stronger story lines, and a much more assured and nuanced voice.

### *Genesis*

The group Genesis that made Phil Collins famous will be pushing out their "Platinum Hits Collection." For everyone that is a fan of this classic rock group it will include most of your favorite hits that this group has ever had.

## Soon in stores

### *Jennifer Lopez*

These CDs are now hitting the shelves of your favorite music stores.

The CD "Rebirth" by the one and only Jennifer Lopez is now on it's way to stores. J Lo exploded onto the music scene years ago and is back with a CD that won't let her fans down. It includes a nice mix or Hip Hop, R&B, and Dance.

### *Spice Girl Emma Bunton*

Remember the music group the Spice Girls? Well, they are long gone but each of the girls are still around. From time to time each one tries for a come back as a single artist. Emma Bunton was a former member of the group and has now released the CD "Free Me." Recorded over a year ago in the UK and Spain it is now finally release in the states. This CD is very diverse and energetic. This release could be her ticket to fame all over again.

### *Brian McKnight*

Brian McKnight is back with the CD "Gemini." Don't expect anything too upbeat here. Brian's purpose in the music scene is too seduce you with his soothing voice.

### *Dance the night away!*

Some dance music collections you might not want to miss out on. "Fired Up 2" is the CD for the mainstream club dancer. Just like the first CD in this collection, it is full of your favorite club songs that make you want to get up and dance. If you hit the dance club often you will know most of the songs.

### *Peter Rauhofer*

For the harder edge dance sound check out "Live @ Roxy 4" by Peter Rauhofer. This producer, remixer, and DJ extraordinaire releases his fourth volume of the wildly popular "Live @ Roxy" series. This DJ is well known for working at NYC's famous dance club Roxy. This is a double CD set and features some of the best dance music Peter and The Big Apple has to offer.

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### Weekend Packages

# Club Z Opens in Williamsport

"We just wanted a place to party," said Dale Wagner, co-owner of the new Z Nightclub in Williamsport. "My business partner Michael and I got tired of going to Philly, DC, and Baltimore to have fun. So, we opened a club of our own."

Four months and $400,000 later, Club Z opened its doors as the largest gay-owned nightclub in central Pennsylvania. "I guess we got a little carried away, but it's worth it," said Michael Orrico, co-owner. "Our dance floor is huge, our sound system killer, and our light show incredible." The Dance Club is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night from 10 pm to 2 am.

As an entertainment complex, Club Z has a line-up of performers, part of their Divas Concert Series. Dates are set for nationally-known dance divas Pepper Mashay, Martha Wash (Weather Girls), Thelma Houston, Gioia (Expose), Kristine W, Janice Robinson, Evelyn Champaign King, Sandy B, Lady Bunny and more in the upcoming year. "Why should we leave the area to see these performers when we can bring them here?" continued Wagner.

Along with the national entertainment, local and regional dancers, drag queens and musicians will be performing on a regular basis. Regular events like the Red Party, the White Party, the Military Ball and more are also planned.

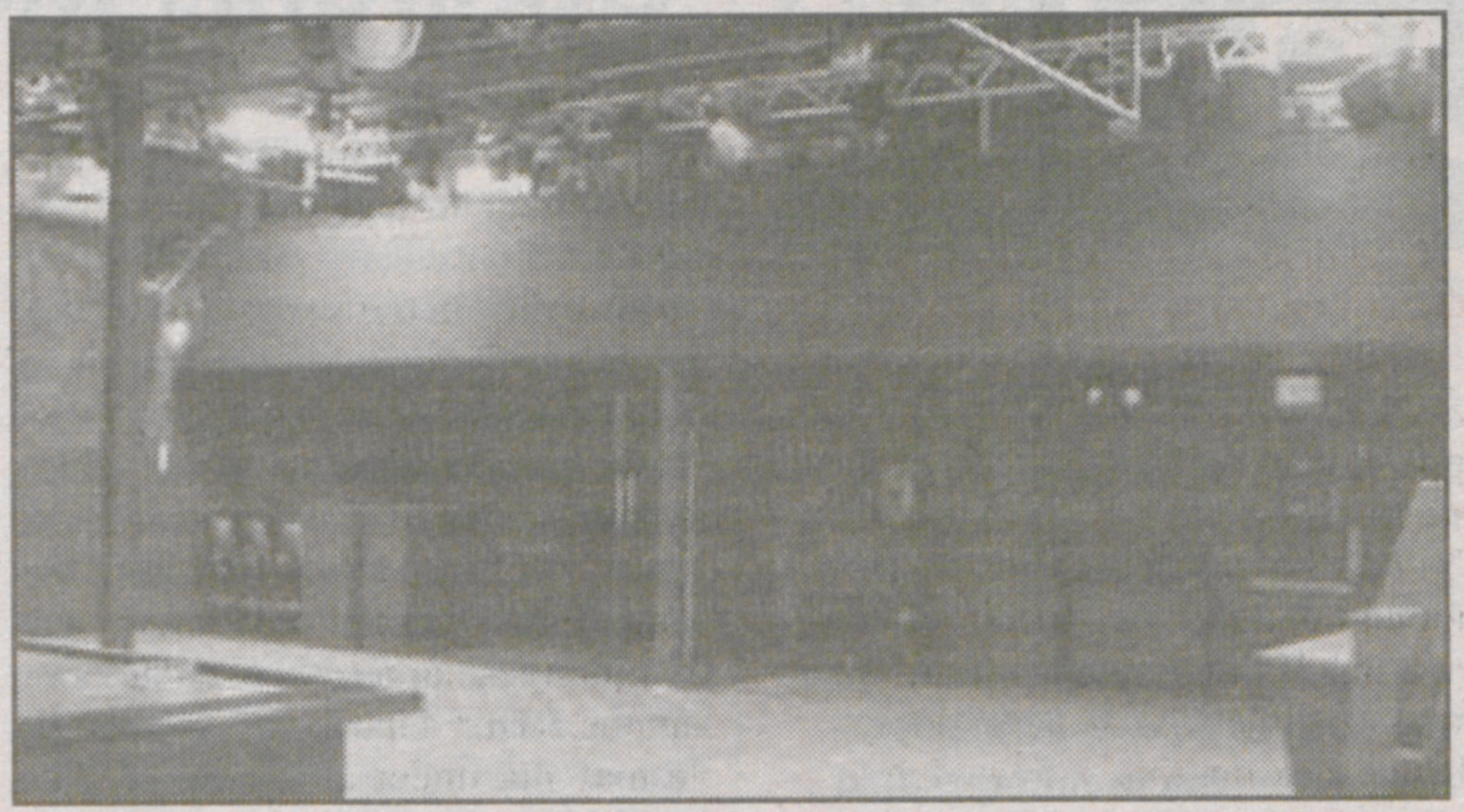
Along with the Dance Club, Z features a comfortable, classy Lounge with pool table, dart boards, and big screen TV. Friday night Drag Karaoke is a big hit and a line up of lounge entertainers is scheduled as well. The Lounge is open Monday through Saturday, 4 pm to 2 am, Friday and Saturday after hours until 4 am and Sunday from noon to 2 am. Weekday Happy Hours are from 5 to 7 pm with live piano music on Fridays.

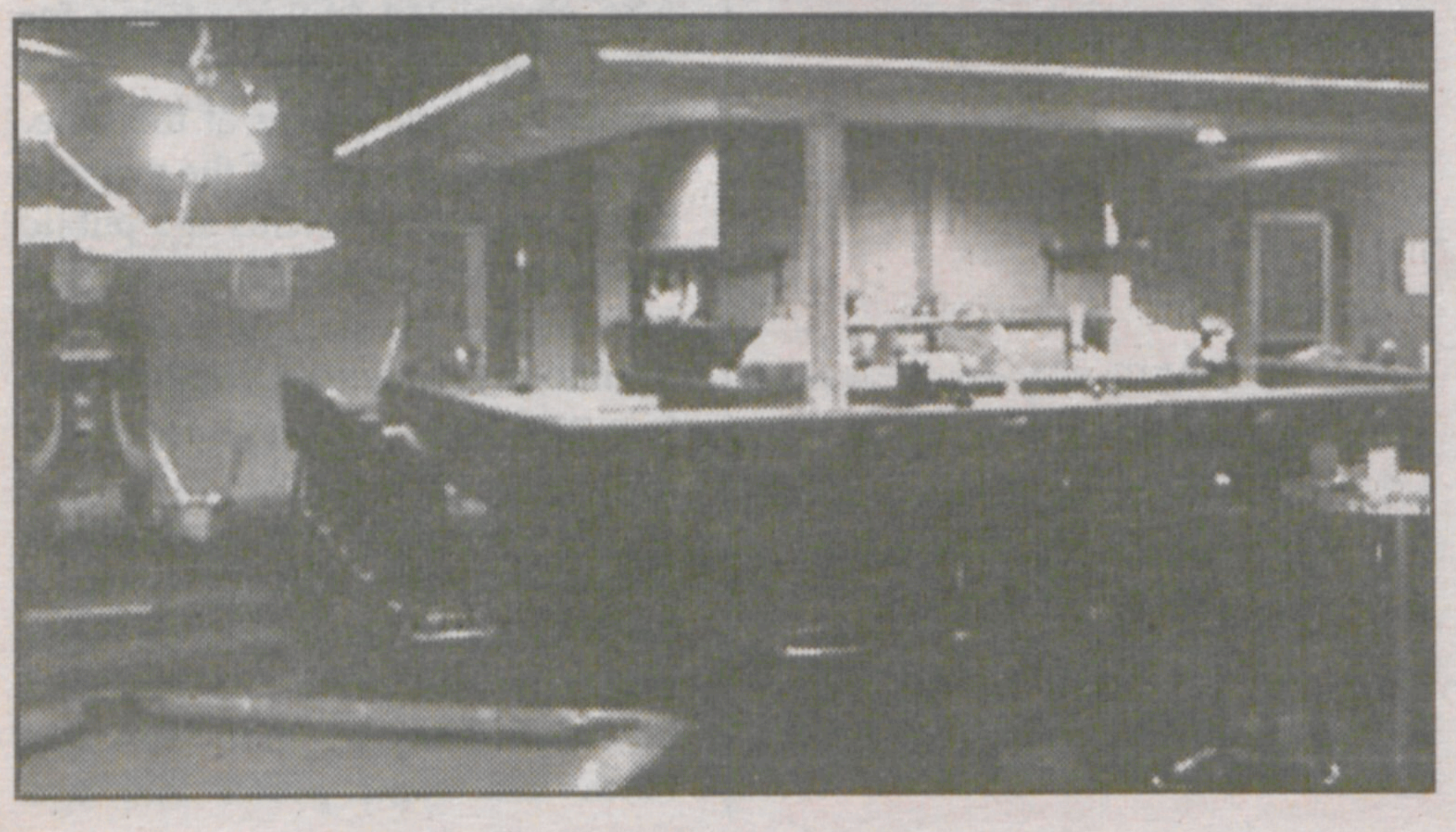
"We also have inexpensive weekend hotel packages with the local hotels so patrons can come and stay over without worrying about driving home," said Orrico. Rates start at just $30 per person, double which includes overnight stay, club admission and parking. "One call does it all. We take the credit card, book the hotel and even make dinner reservations, too."

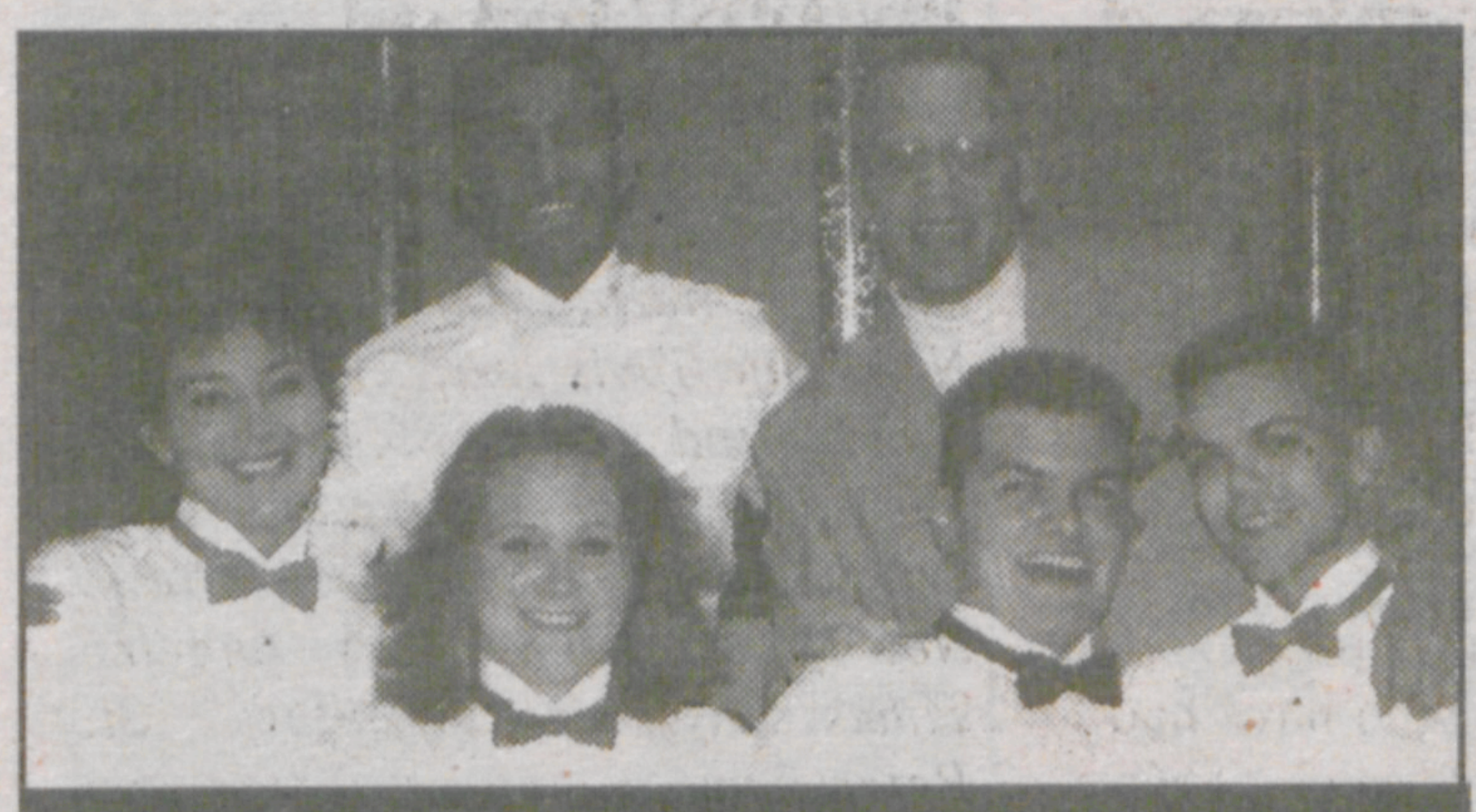
"The response we have gotten from the City is incredible," continues Wagner. "We were a little anxious opening a well-publicized gay bar in the middle of downtown with all our rainbow flags. But, when we had our Sneak Preview Opening, everyone was here from the Mayor and City Council members to the local merchants, the media and the country club set... all mixed together with the gays, lesbians and drag queens. Times sure have changed."

Storeowners, hotels and the Travel and Tourism Bureau are asking us how to market to the gay community," said Orrico. "They are all looking for our business and want more gay-owned businesses to open up here in downtown since they know we do things right. We never thought Williamsport was this gay-friendly." Club Z is located in downtown Williamsport, just over an hour drive north on Route 15 from the Harrisburg area. It is next to two large Parking Decks for plenty of free parking after 5 p.m. Eight security cameras inside and outside the Club, a trained security team, and the recent Streetscaping Project in downtown Williamsport which provides excellent lighting all night makes Club Z a very safe place for patrons.

For more information on Club Z,
call (570) 322-6900
or visit the web site at
http://www.clubzbar.com







Bartenders Pam, Matt, Tara, Harry, Morgan with owner Michael Orrico.

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Smokey Joe's
CAFE
The Songs of Leiber and Stoller

PILOBOLUS
**Friday, April 8**
A new vision of modern dance, twisting together dance, gymnastics and performance art. Erecting structures on stage closer to sculpture than dance, this multi-award winning group is acclaimed for its startling mix of humor and invention.

*Corporate support provided by:*
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MICHAEL AMANTE & SUSAN LUCCI
**Saturday, April 24, 7:30 pm**
One of the most talked about up and coming tenors on either side of the pop/classical divide, Michael Amante certainly knows how to sing. Known for her long-running portrayal of "Erica" on All My Children, Susan Lucci will dazzle fans with her vocal prowess on pop, jazz standards and Broadway tunes.

**Friday & Saturday**
**April 29 & 30**
The longest running Broadway review features hits of the 50s and 60s like *Jailhouse Rock, Stand By Me, Yakety Yak, Hound Dog* and others. A rockin' party of musical theater that has audiences and critics raving.

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2004-2005 25th Anniversary Season

# Theatre Roundup

## Fulton Opera House Offers Variety

Lancaster's Fulton Opera House offers theatrical variety.

**Romance/Romance**
**Two One-Act Musicals**
**Books and lyrics by Barry Harman**
**Music by Keith Herrmann**
**Directed and Choreographed by Gary John La Rosa**

From March 17-April 3, see shows based on the theme of romance in the form of two one act musicals. "The Little Comedy" is based on the work of Arthur Schnitzer. "Summer Share" is based on "Pain de Menage" by Jules Renard.
Nominated for five Tony awards, the show amazingly transforms from comic operetta, waltz and polkas in Vienna in Act One to a delightfully hip, popular musical sound in Act Two. It's a "double dollop of the romantic spirit," says the *New York Post* , as couples across time discover how to find romance and keep it alive.

Cosponsors are Capital Blue Cross and [Aaron Young] Susquehanna Bank. Tickets are $15 -$45 at 717-397-7425 or HYPERLINK "http://www.atthefulton.org/" \o "http://www.atthefulton.org/" www.atthefulton.org

## Auditions: Capital Area School for the Arts

The Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA), the region's magnet high school for the arts, is holding auditions for new students for the 2005-06 school year. March 18 is one audition date, but students may audition later if they miss that date, according to CASA executive director Anne Alsedek.

Located in two sites in downtown Harrisburg, the school offers intensive two-hour daily classes in visual art, dance, media arts, music, and theatre to qualified high school students in the Central PA area.

Visual art and media arts classes are held at the Susquehanna Art Museum and the Kunkel Building, at 3rd and Market Streets, and dance, music and theatre classes at Salem United Church of Christ, 3rd and Chestnut Streets. Admission to the school requires an audition/interview with school staff.

The school is administered by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and managed by Open Stage of Harrisburg.

Interested students should see their guidance counselors for applications and audition information or may call the school at 214-0593.

### Anne Frank & Mockingbird

## Open Stage of Harrisburg Confronts Moral Injustice

Prejudice, intolerance, and injustice are alive and well in the US. We are continually reminded of its well being in the daily news. Tune into latest political debate, listen to the AM talk show mongers, overhear the conversations at the office water cooler, or catch the latest joke, the one about the Jew, the fairy, the black man, and the woman who appear before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, and youâ€™ll know that these offspring of hate and fear are well nurtured.

Lest we forget, lest we let our guard down, we owe it to our self, as individual and as community member to be reminded of these carcinogens of social injustice.

Join Open Stage of Harrisburg as it presents two classic 20th century plays that confront the challenge of moral injustice. Join us to listen, reflect, talk, and hopefully act.

### The Diary of Anne Frank

The Diary of Anne Frank will be presented for one performance only at Whitaker Center on Saturday evening, March 19 Curtain time is 8 P. M. Join the Frank family in their secret annex as they go into hiding for their lives.

### To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Leeâ€™s classic story To Kill a Mockingbird will be presented at Open Stage from April 15 to May 8. Curtain time is 8 p.m., Thursday - Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Atticus Finch is defending a wrongly accused black man in his small segregated Southern town. His young daughter, Scout, longs to know why and learns an important lesson about conscience and courage.

Reservations: The Box at Whitaker Center or 214-ARTS (2787). Admission: $22 regular; $18 seniors/students. Group rates available. Every Thursday is a Pay-What-You-Will Night. Lobby opens one hour prior to curtain time. Open Stage is located on the street level of the Walnut Street Parking Garage.

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### Book Review

### Local Dan Miller story portrayed

## From AbFab to Zen: A Pop Culture Guide

**by Ian Forster**

I found From AbFab to Zen one afternoon while aimlessly searching through Harrisburg's Midtown Scholar Bookstore. Hidden in the Media section was this bright neon-orange book. Upon opening it, I immediately thought of those VH1 shows that shuttle through the years highlighting important and quirky events of the time.

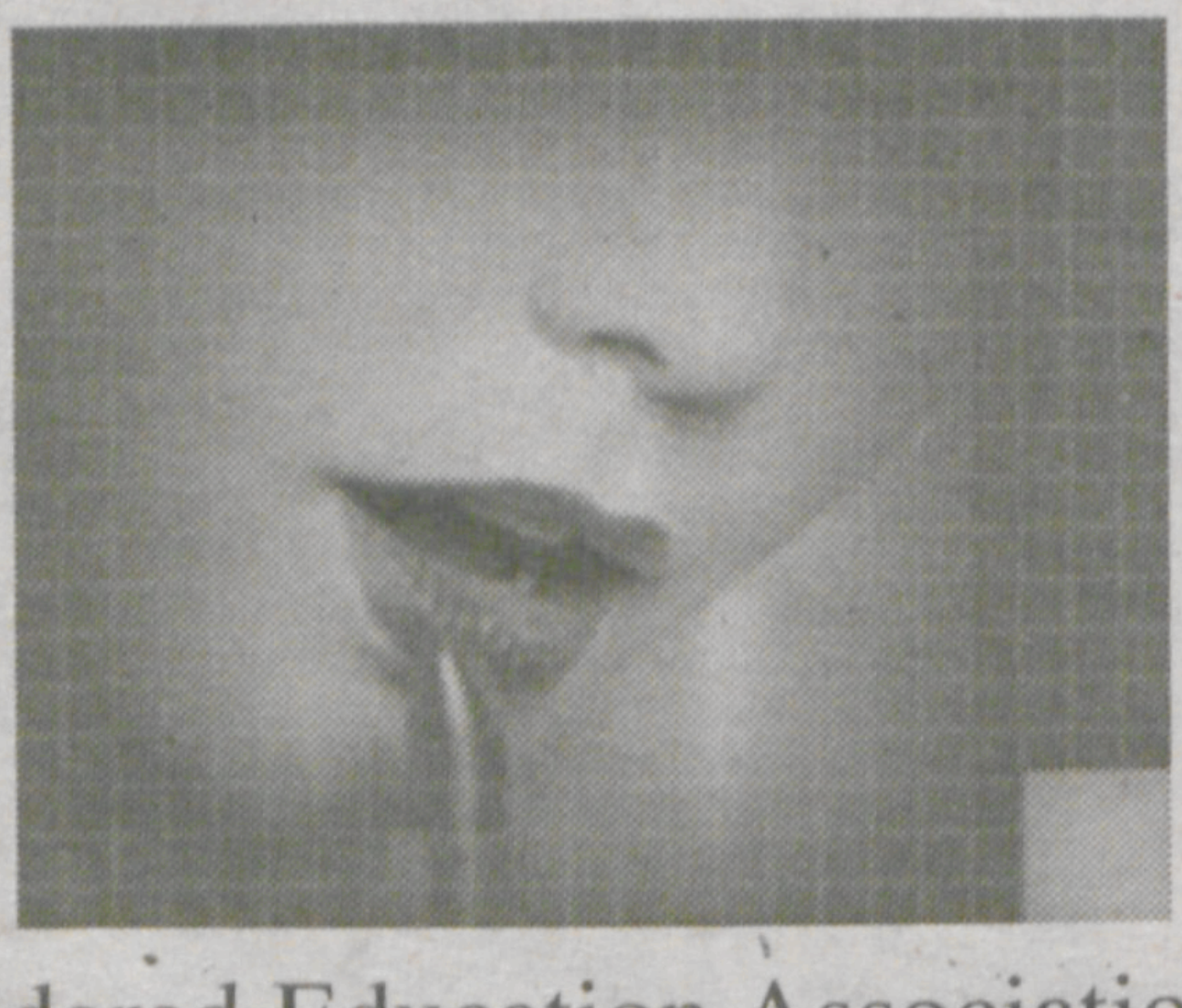
Published by Paper magazine, From AbFab to Zen is similar to those shows in content but organized differently. Following the alphabet from A to Z, editors chose from six to 30 pop culture events, icons, or trends to represent each letter of the alphabet. Each pop culture item has a description and a picture.

One image is of local activist Dan Miller and his 1994 New Yorker cover story by Pulitzer prize winning writer James. B. Stewart who chronicled Miller's firing for being gay by Camp Hill's Don DeMuth, his employer at the time. Miller had appeared on the evening news making comments at a public meeting called to focus on the increasing levels of violence against gay men when DeMuth saw him and later fired him for being gay.

To understand how some items made their way into the book, it helps to know the history of Paper magazine, the group that compiled this book. They began in 1984 as a black and white poster that was

continued on page 20

Renaissance



Transgendered Education Association
Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Meeting Time: First Saturday each month–8–11p.m.
Location: Metropolitan Community Church–MCC
Address: 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110
Cost: $5 donation requested from non-members
Info: Plentiful parking in secure, low-traffic area, close to building. Light refreshments provided. Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not permitted inside. Changing area provided for those who need to dress.

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# Gotham Getaway – Navigating NYC

**By Winnie McCroy**
**NYC Correspondent**

Need a break?

Even if your vacation needs to fit inside one weekend, New York City is just a quick drive from central Pennsylvania. Whether you're a frequent visitor to the Big Apple or just feeling like some adventure, the key to the city is knowing how to navigate the streets and subways. This handy guide will help you move from the bottom of the city to the top like a seasoned straphanger.

First-timers always like to visit Lady Liberty, and while it's a beautiful thing to behold, be forewarned: the ferry ride over to Ellis and Liberty Islands gets very cold in the winter months.

The Statue of Liberty stands 151 feet above the New York Harbor, and if you want to trek to the top, the 354-step winding staircase can take a few hours. Long lines can add to that time, so unless you want to make a day of it, arrive early at the South Street Seaport and catch one of the ferries that leave every half-hour. ($10, 212-363-3200).

Once you return, cut through Battery Park to Trinity Place, and walk up to the Trinity Church founded in 1697, whose cemetery contains the graves of John James Audubon, Alfred Tennyson Dickens, John Jacob Astor, and other late, great New Yorkers. Across the street, pay your respects at the World Trade Center site. It's just a big hole in the ground right now, but you know everyone back home is going to ask, so you might as well.

Continue up Church Street through Tribeca (the triangle below Canal) once a leader in the wholesale produce trade, then a trendy artist's enclave, now a yuppie paradise. Enjoy the stunning architecture of classical lines and ornate facades of the Italianate style then popular.

If money is no object, stay here at the luxurious Tribeca Grand Hotel at 2 Avenue of the Americas, two blocks south of its sister property, the SoHo Grand (877-519-6600), Melissa and Tammy Lynn's choice whenever they swoop into the Big Apple. This modern hotel is close to Chinatown, Wall Street, and SoHo, and smack dab in the middle of the area's best art.

If you do stay in Tribeca, make dinner reservations at Bouley (120 West Broadway, 212-964-2525). That the restaurant's huge wooden door seems castle-like is apropos, as the cuisine of David Bouley is fit for a king. This temperamental culinary genius is one of the top ten chefs in the city, known for his tropical, fusion cooking. If you're just passing through, however, turn right onto Canal Street and get a taste of Chinatown. Whether you're looking for that perfect Louis Vuitton knockoff bag, a stylish piece of jade jewelry or just some noodles and roast duck, this is a great place to spend some time. Be prepared for thick sidewalk traffic, feel free to haggle over prices, and use common sense when picking a place to lunch.

The Lunar New Year falls on January 22 this year, and for weeks

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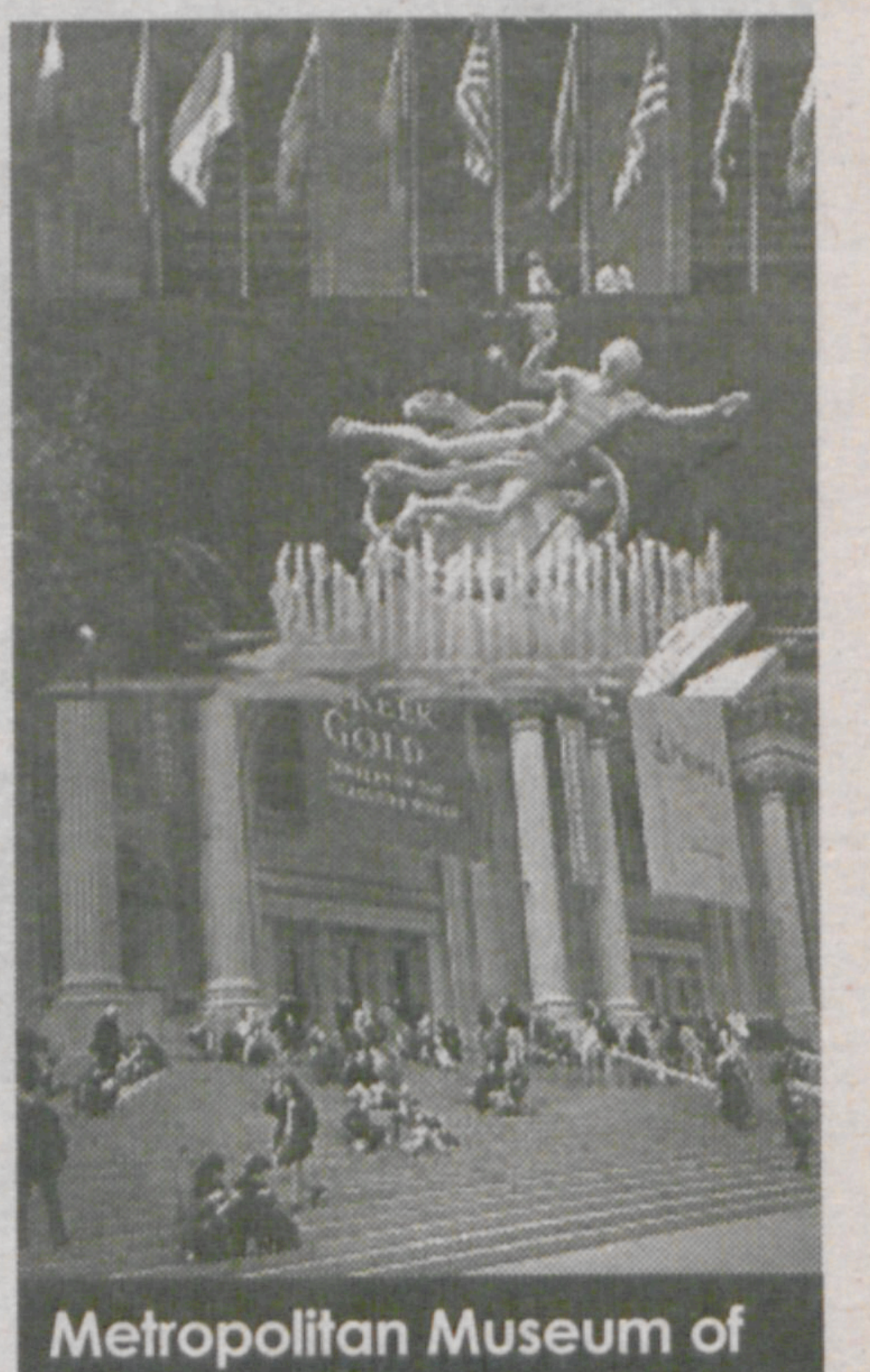
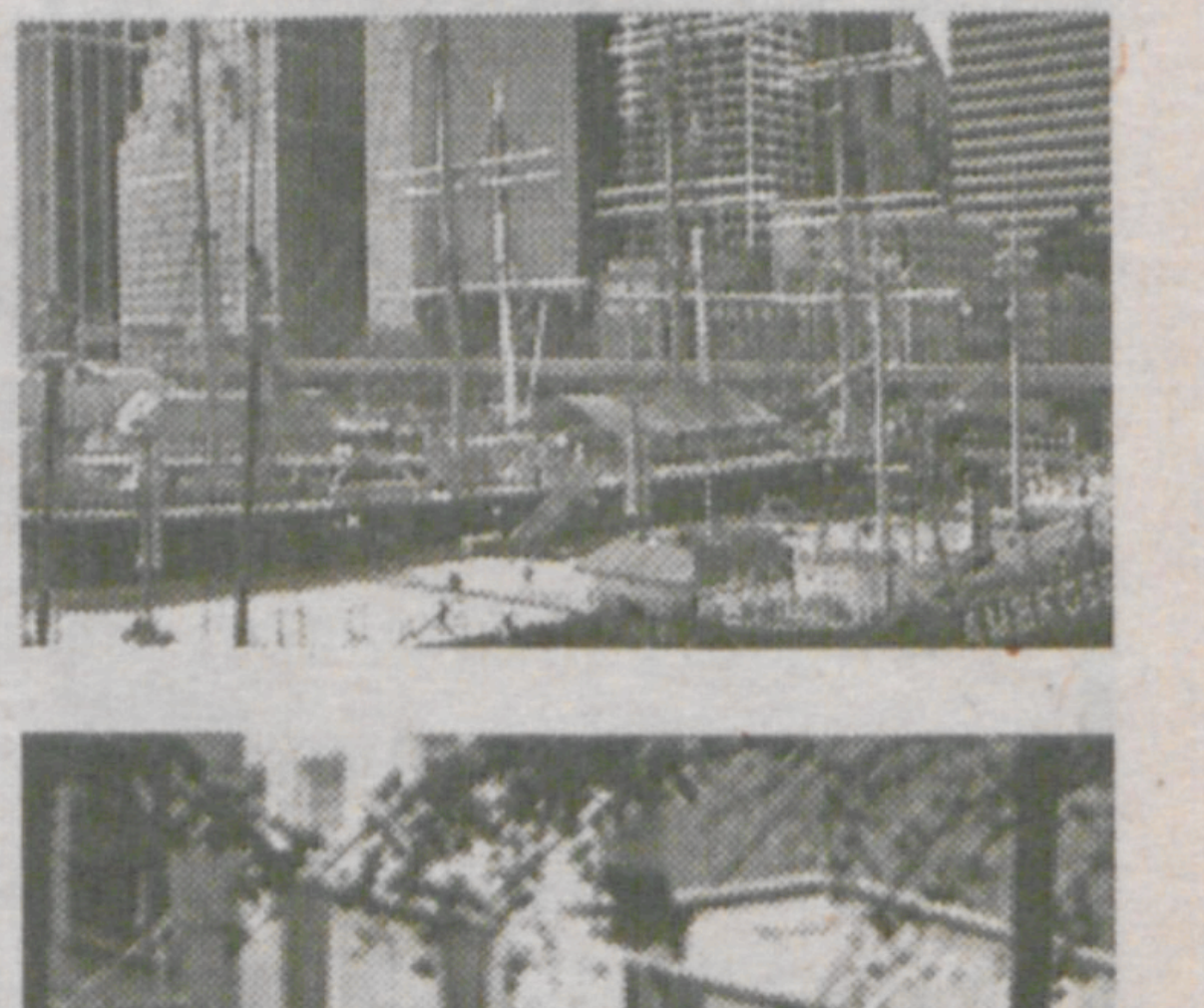


Metropolitan Museum of Art. 82nd Street, East Side



# MOVIE REVIEW

**Movie Reviews by Kevyn Knox**
www.thecinematheque.com

## Torch Song Trilogy (1988, Paul Bogart, USA)

Harvey Feirstein creates a labyrinthine tour de force of his altered life - at times hilarious - at times tragic - at times completely insane. Co-starring Matthew Broderick and Brian Kerwin as Harvey's lovers and Anne Bancroft as his mother, Torch Song will make you cry, pant, laugh, choke and scream. An emotional experience from a born entertainer.

## A Home at the End of the World (2004, Michael Mayer, USA)

Colin Farrell is surprisingly good in this somewhat timid, yet well-played look at a young man on the verge of manhood. A young man confused as to who or what he is. Sissy Spacek also stars in an unfortunately overlooked performance as the mother figure. Although some aspects may get tiresome, Farrell's quiet performance is not one of them.

## In & Out (1997, Frank Oz, USA)

Kevin Kline and Tom Selleck kiss - do you need to know more? Okay, since you insist - the film is based on Tom Hanks' Oscar acceptance speech for Philadelphia, wherein he outed his former teacher. Kline is this film's version of that teacher, who until Oscar night (Hanks has been replaced with Matt Dillon - a fake Oscar may be his only chance) doesn't even realize he is gay. Kline is superb in the role, and just wait for the fantastic dance number Kline pulls off.

## Our Lady of the Assassins (2000, Barbet Schroeder, Spain)

Schroeder gives us the story of an old assassin living in Columbia, who finds a young street hustler and takes him as his mentor - both as an assassin and as a lover. Shot on digital video, the sharpened contrast gives the story a realistic harrowing primal look - showing all the ugly scars of these broken and lost lives.

Gotham Getaway continued

surrounding the event dragon parades of all sizes fill the streets. Residents bang drums and march through the neighborhood collecting coins from merchants, destined to bring both the giver and receiver luck in the upcoming year.

Go east and walk through what's left of Little Italy, a lonely stretch of Mulberry Street chockablock with Italian restaurants. Head across Houston Street (pronounced Hows-ton, not like that city in Texas) and explore the East Village's beautiful grit at your leisure.

Or, stay west and go up Broadway through SoHo. Make a pit stop on Mercer and Grand Streets at Toys in Babeland's new location, and pick up something sexy for your significant other. Wend your way up through SoHo, checking out the art galleries and boutiques, and be sure to duck into the basement gallery of Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation (127B Prince St.).

Cross Houston and you're surrounded by the enterprising young slackers of NYU. Take some photos of the arch at Washington Square Park as you cut west toward Greenwich Village (or give your

continued on page 18

Morality continued

***Low Math Skills?*** Coming in 24th of 29 nations on measures of math skills, US 15-year-olds rank near the bottom, ahead of only Portugal, Mexico, and three other nations, according to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. So much for under-funding the "No Child Left Behind" Act.

***Bad at Science Too?*** Senate Majority Leader and medical doctor Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN) said about HIV transmission on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" that he "didn't know" if HIV could be transmitted through tears or sweat. According to Centers for Disease Control, "contact with saliva, tears, or sweat has never been shown to result in transmission of HIV."

***No Better at Sociology?*** Speaking male homosexual divorce following Massachusetts' law, Massachusetts Family Institute prexy Kris Mineau said, "We're not surprised. Particularly among male homosexuals, the promiscuity is just phenomenal." There have been only 3 same-sex divorces from more than 4,000 same-sex weddings performed in that state. The national (heterosexual) divorce rate is 50% nationwide.

***All Preach, No Practice?*** Massachusetts voted for John Kerry over George W Bush 62% to 37%. Texas voted for Bush over Kerry 61% to 38%. Massachusetts has the lowest divorce rate in the country at 2.4 divorces per 1,000 inhabitants. Texas has a divorce rate of 4.1.

***More Preach, No Practice?*** Those who can do, those who can't preach. Rush Limbaugh has had three divorces and an addiction to painkillers. Bill O'Reilly settled a sex harassment suit involving a highly adulterous sex life. Bill Bennett was for many years a gambling addict. Neo-Con Georgian congressman Bob Barr, author of the Defense of Marriage Act, has had three wives. States that register the highest ratings for Desperate Housewives are Bush states.

***Born Again, Then Divorce Again?*** Recent studies found among "born again" folks that 29% of Baptists have been divorced, as have 21% of Catholics. 23% of married "born agains" have been divorced twice or more.

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Gotham Getaway continued

feet a rest and take the D train uptown at Houston Street to West 4th.) This is the Gay Mecca of the East Coast, so plan a stop by the Stonewall Bar (153 Christopher St.). During the last weekend of June 1969, the bust of this tiny bar nestled in Sheridan Square spawned a revolution that continues to thrive today. Pick up rainbow gee-gaws on Christopher Street for your buddies back home, then head up Seventh Avenue South and cut left on Greenwich Street toward Chelsea.

Or, walk up to W. 13th Street and visit the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center. The newly renovated Center hosts hundreds of groups catering to every segment of the gay community. Be sure to check out the Keith Haring mural on the second floor. (www.gaycenter.org)

Then, it's off to Eighth Avenue and Chelsea, a gay man's paradise. Window shop, and pop into the Big Cup at 22nd Street for a latte and some unadulterated gay cruising.

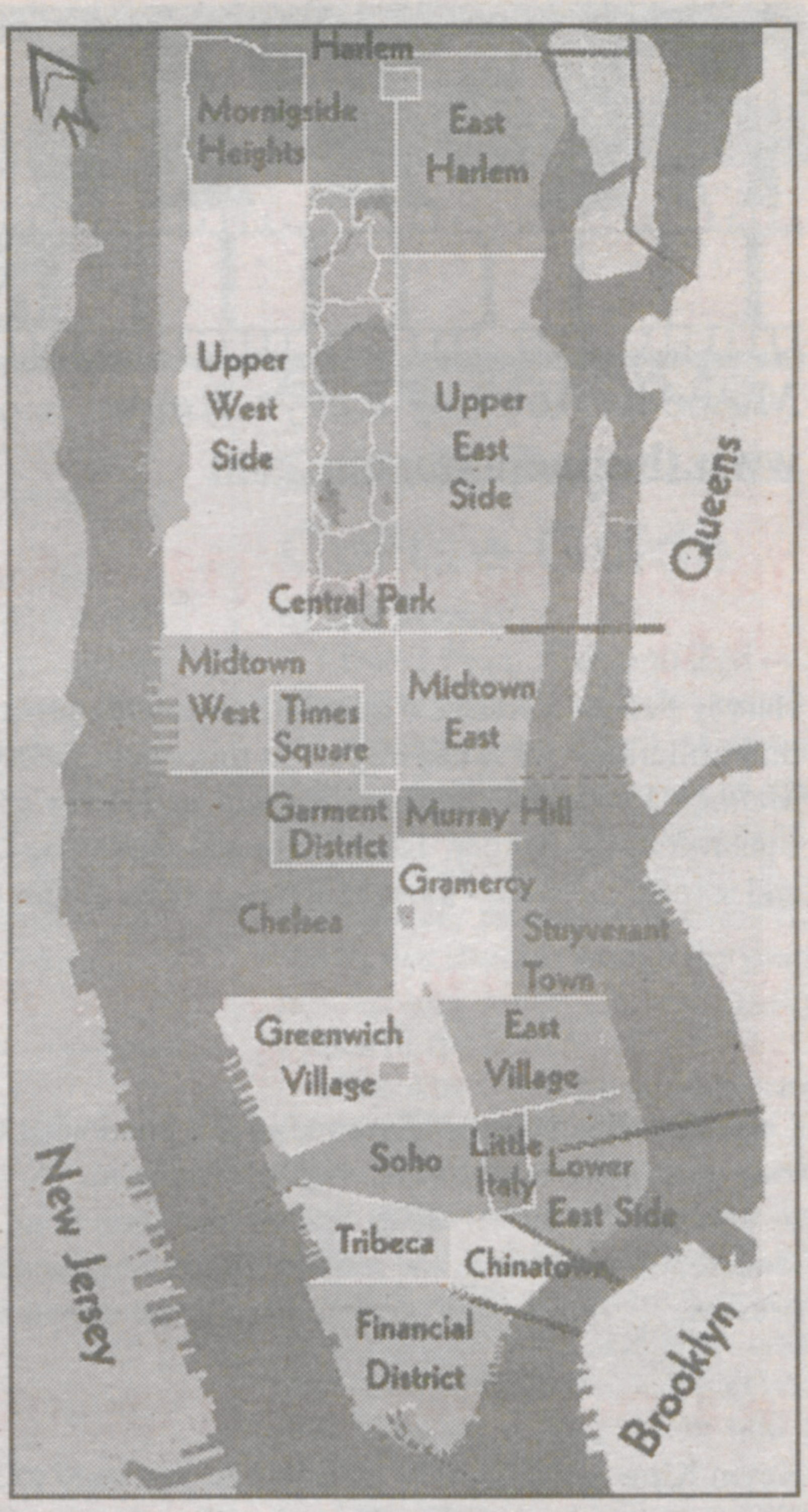
Pop into a cab (or take the A,C,E subway line) and head up to 34th Street. Stop to take some pictures of Madison Square Garden, browse the sale racks at Macy=B9s, and get a taste of midtown. If you must visit the Empire State Building at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street, be forewarned that the wait can sometimes take hours. But you won't be alone. Since its opening in 1931, the 1,453-foot skyscraper has attracted 120 million people to its 102nd floor observatory. ($12, 212-736-3100).

Start heading north on Broadway, and you should make it to Times Square just as the sun is setting. If you plan ahead, you can pick up tickets for a song at newyorkshow.com/Broadway, or www.discountbroadwayticket.com. Even if you don't have tickets to one of the fabulous Broadway shows, the lights really are something to see, and you can always stop into the massive Toys R Us and ride the indoor Ferris wheel, or to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum ($30 www.nycwax.com) and pose with Princess Diana.

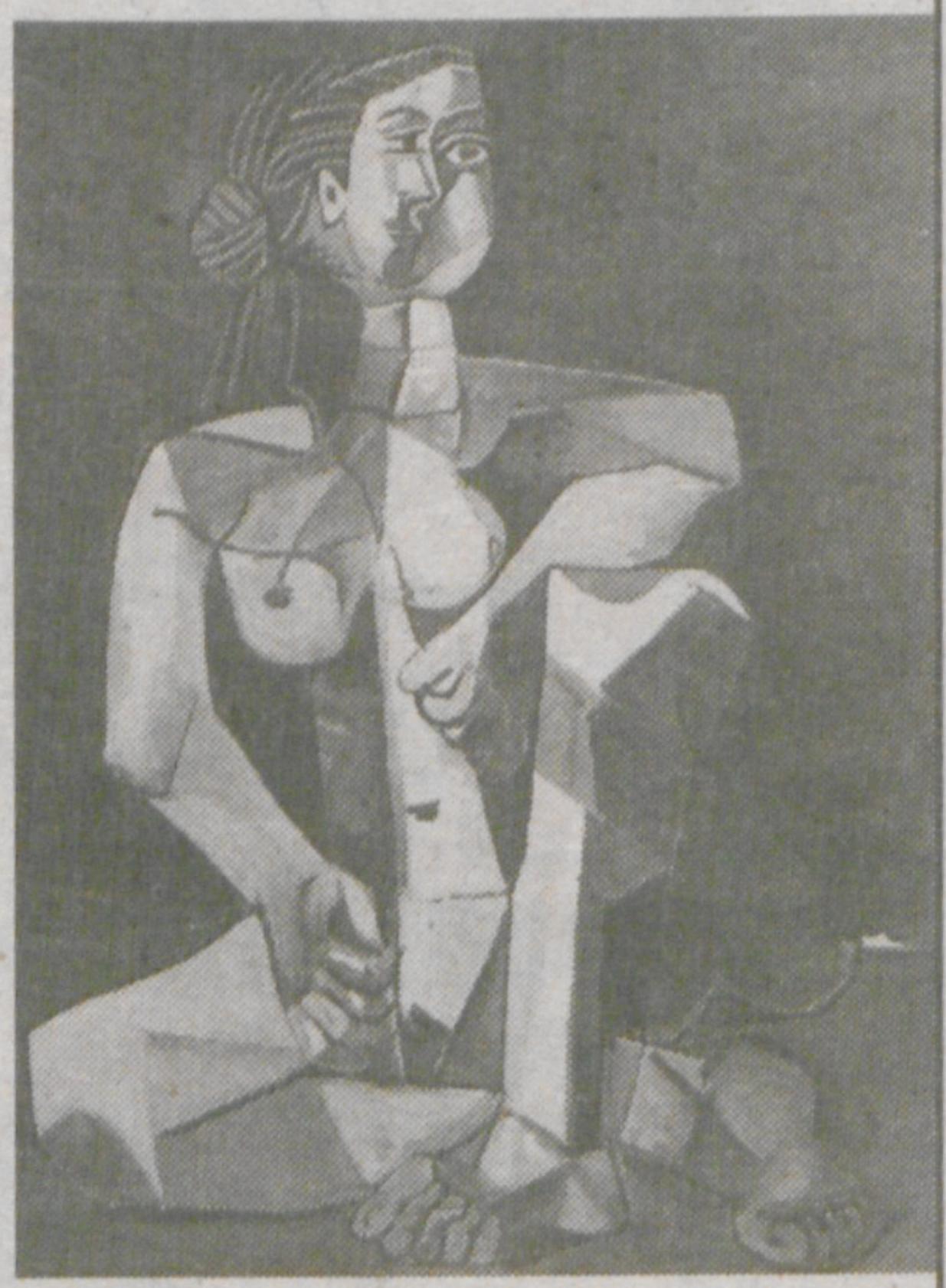
The restaurants in this area tend to be pricey and crowded, but if you have the dough, stop for dim sum at Ruby Foo's at 49th and Broadway. For cheaper eats, enjoy a tuna club on rye at Ellen's Stardust Diner, an old subway car converted into a 50s-style diner on W. 51st Street.

Head east up 49th Street to Rockefeller Plaza and enjoy high-end shopping from Godiva to Bergdorf Goodman to Saks, and the lights of Radio City

continued on page 19



The Lunar New Year rolls out dragon parades.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*Gotham Getaway continued*

Music Hall, where the Rockettes kick up their heels. If you visit early enough in the season, you will be able to see the massive Christmas tree at the Rockefeller Plaza ice skating rink and the festive decorated windows of the shops on Lexington Avenue, from Barney's to Henri Bendel.

Continue uptown and stop by FAO Schwartz at 767 Fifth Avenue for their mind-boggling toy displays, or stop by the Plaza Hotel (Fifth Ave. at Central Park South) for tea. You end up right across from Central Park, where you can get a romantic horse and buggy ride through the park.

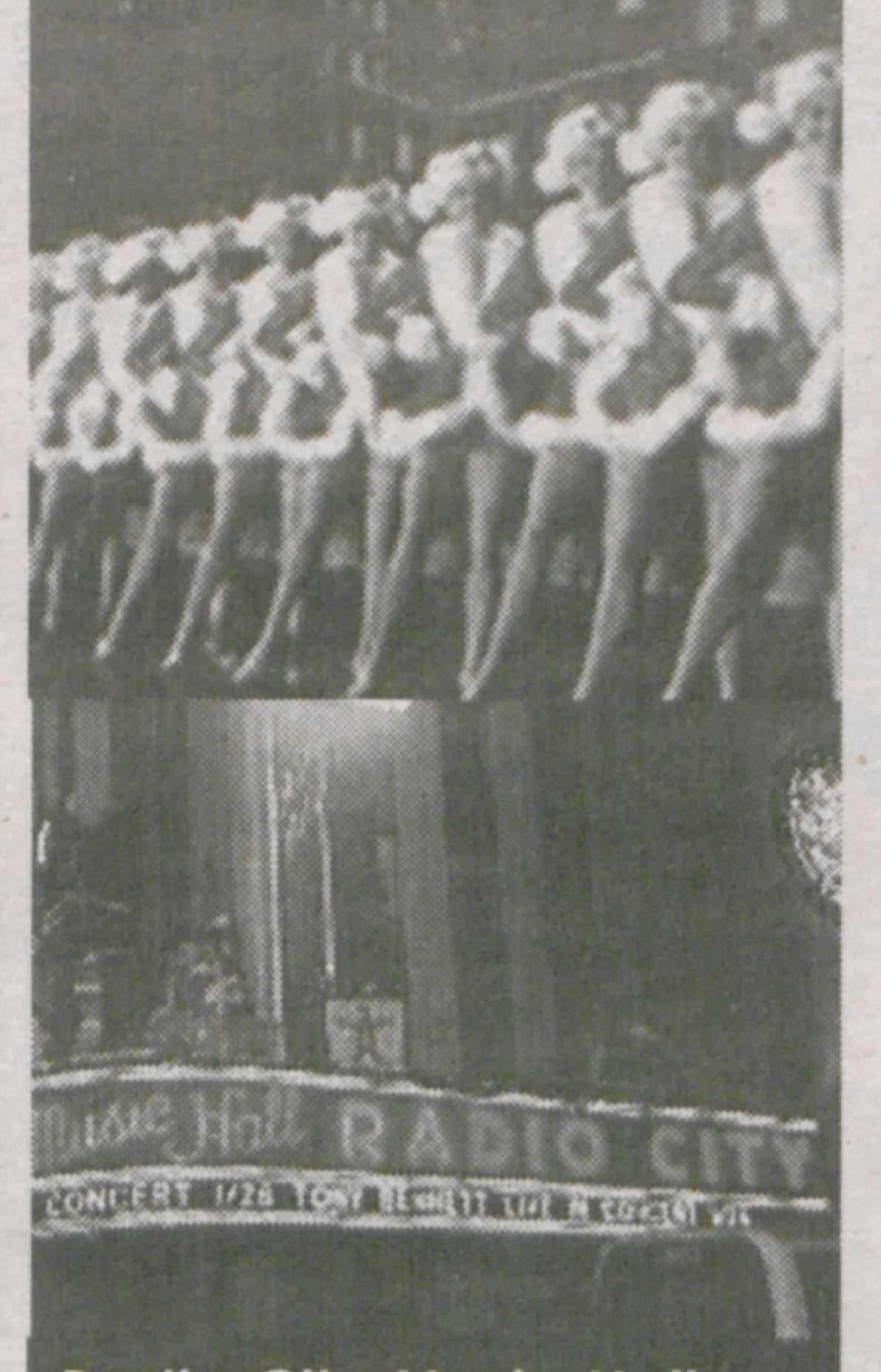
Lining Central Park on both sides are art museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art at 82nd Street on the east side (212-535-7710) and the Museum of Natural History and Hayden Planetarium on the west side (212-769-5200).

Taking in the city's art is a venture well worth it, so be sure to spend some time uptown enjoying the many cultural offerings. And don't forget to indulge in the city's greatest boon, our thriving nightlife. Whether you are in the mood for cocktails at Oscar Wilde (221 E. 58th St.), cabaret at Don't Tell Mama (343 W. 46th St.), or delicious French bistro fare at Florent (69 Gansevoort St.) in the meatpacking district, you'll never be at a loss for something to do.

You don't have to spend a fortune to have a great time in New York City. With a little planning, you can have fun on any budget. For tips on tourist destinations, visit www.nyctourist.com. For gay nightlife at your fingertips, check newyork.citysearch.com and you'll find the lounge or bar perfect for you.

The only thing left to do is plan a return trip. After all, you haven't even seen Brooklyn yet!

FAO Schwartz, 767 Fifth Avenue, known for mind-boggling toy displays.



Radio City Music Hall, where the Rockettes (and sometimes Glenda) kick up their heels.

# Transgender: My Coming Out Letter to Parents

**By Anonymous**

The most daunting task during my 42 years of life involved "coming out" to my parents.

My upbringing reflected central Pennsylvania's extremely conservative values. I completed 18 years of mandatory church and Sunday school attendance. Other aspects of my life formed around a tight structure with lots of discipline at home. In other words, I ruled out disclosing to my folks the real me out of fear they would reject, even abandon me.

I began my transition in 2002 and, consequently, fell in love shortly thereafter. She was the first person I came out to. A month later, I divulged my feelings to two of my closest friends. Next, I disclosed to two more people. So far, I was batting 1,000 – no rejections!

Their remarkable support and acceptance continues to this day. My close circle of friends is well informed about my transition. Each "coming out" became progressively easier. Each was a dress rehearsal for the day I would share my feelings with my parents.

Below is the letter I crafted for the extraordinary moment. However, even after 18 months of preparation and skin toughening, the thought of facing them left me motionless. One day I found myself, through unforeseen circumstances, sitting with my former lover in my parent's living room with my letter in hand. We sat there quivering, trembling with anxiety. Nauseous. Center stage was soon to be mine.

As I began to tell my story,

*continued on page 20*

Atticus Finch is defending a wrongly accused black man in his small segregated Southern town. His young daughter, Scout, longs to know why and learns an important lesson about conscience and courage.

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# Key West
# "Von Cosel"
## Novel Like Frankenstein

**by Christopher Tittel,**
**Key West Correspondent**

"Things like this happen in Key West."

In "Von Cosel," written by Tom Swicegood (TLPS Publishing), Police Officer Bienvenido Perez mutters these words as a seemingly crazed passerby accidentally slips into the open grave of Elena Milagro Hoyos during her interment at Key West City Cemetery. Perez's observation in itself is enough to evoke a chuckle from anyone who's familiar with the colorful and quirky goings-on in this town. Drop the patrolman's quip into the center of local author and screenwriter Tom Swicegood's latest book, however, and it takes on much greater meaning, no longer just a mildly amusing aside but a breathtakingly ironic pronouncement.

"Von Cosel" is Swicegood's compelling account of the legendary Count Carl Tanzler von Cosel and the things he did for the love of Elena Milagro Hoyos both before and beyond the grave.

How does this version of the story of the German scientist's undying passion for the Cuban beauty differ from the version that so many locals have passed along through word of mouth since the 1930s?

Swicegood has gone to great lengths to research the story, presenting the reader with what very well may be the most accurate rendering of events to date. Among other primary sources of information, the author lists Von Cosel's memoirs, *The Key West Citizen*, *The Miami Herald*, the *Miami Daily News*, a handful of well-respected local historians and descendants of the personalities involved.

Swicegood also resists the urge to sensationalize Von Cosel into a Frankenstein-like figure. Instead, he depicts the actions and reactions of Von Cosel and others in a way that allows individual behavior to speak for itself and the reader to weigh all sides and pass judgment on their own as events unfolds.

"Von Cosel" tracks Carl's overwhelming passion for Elena, the alluring woman who appeared to him in visions as his beautiful bride years before he actually laid eyes on her in the flesh.

Von Cosel, 53, and Hoyos, 20, meet at the U.S. Marine Hospital in Key West in 1930. Soon after Hoyos is diagnosed with tuberculosis, Von Cosel works feverishly to save the love of his life with specially concocted potions and obscure electrical gadgets. He woos Elena as she lays in her sickbed, bringing her gifts, shooing away raucous family and friends and playing classical music on his pipe organ.

The book is filled with both external and internal dialogue, with quoted passages presumably based on Von Cosel's memoirs. In one of their final discussions before her passing in late 1931, Elena tells Carl of her fears of being buried and worms consuming her body.

"If I must die," she asks, "will you take care of my body, Carlos? Will you protect me?"

"Ja," the German scientist responds, "it is my sacred promise."

Thus, Carl's rationale for what's to follow Elena's passing is made perfectly clear.

Von Cosel mourns the loss of his would-be bride, ultimately building a mausoleum to protect her remains from the heavy downpours of Key West summers. The intimate space also offers Von Cosel cherished opportunities to continue to woo Elena with books, flowers and gifts and even to sleep alongside her sepulcher.

Finally, in the spring of 1933, Carl begins to hear his true love speak to him from the grave.

"Carlos, if you love me, if you ever truly loved me, you must make an effort to set me free," she pleads.

A detailed account of the next seven years follows: Carl exhumes, cleans, chemically treats and infuses Elena's body with fluids to help restore shape and tone to her lifeless form. He adds glass eyes and locks of hair, applies makeup and dresses her in a wedding gown. Von Cosel feeds, bathes and even makes love to Elena, as she lays in a casket stowed inside the hull of a junked airplane that Carl vows to restore so that he and Elena can one day fly off to the South Pacific.

Despite his attempts to keep things secret, Carl's odd behavior eventually sets wagging the tongues of everyone in town who recalled the German scientist's obsession with the Cuban beauty years earlier.

*continued on page 20*

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### "Von Cosel continued

Finally, in 1940, Elena's sister, Nana, can't take it anymore. She summons Carl to the mausoleum and demands that he open the crypt so that she can see her sister's body and put an end to all the gossip. Carl acquiesces under threat of police intervention and leads Nana back to his home, taking pride when pulling back the mosquito netting that enshrouds Elena's bed to show Nana just how well he has taken care of his bride. Shocked and heartbroken and with a new-found hatred for Carl, Nana gives the German scientist one week to return Elena's body to the crypt or face the authorities. Before the week is up, however, deputies arrive at Von Cosel's house, arrest Von Cosel and transport Elena's body to Lopez Funeral Parlor to be put on public display (a man at either end of her body smacking with flyswatters the hands of passersby reaching out to touch the surprisingly well-preserved corpse).

As Key West prepares for Von Cosel's trial, Swicegood offers a few words on the world's reaction to the episode.

"The French portrayed Carl as a great lover, Germans wrote about him as though he was a celebrated scientist, and the English spoke of Carl and Elena as star-crossed lovers, comparing them favorably with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor," he writes.

Indeed, anyone who reads Swicegood's book is likely to check in every now and then with their own sensibilities on where Von Cosel crosses the line from the romantic to the revolting. Some might consider Carl's daily visits to Elena's graveside a bit odd; others might wonder if Carl hearing Elena's voice from the grave is where the story begins to lose its romantic appeal; others might forgive Carl entirely (as the Europeans seemed to have done), all in the name of a love too deep for many of us to fully understand.

Von Cosel's criminal case is ultimately dismissed after the prosecutor decides that it was not worth law enforcement's time to bring charges. Despite being set free, however, Von Cosel is distressed to learn that Elena's remains will not be turned over to him, but to Nana instead. Nana confronts Carl shortly after the verdict is delivered, advising him that he will never see her sister again.

"Anywhere you bury Elena," Von Cosel responds, "I will hire men and have her disinterred. If you are buried near her we will throw your bones to the dogs. Someday Elena and I will rest in the beautiful mausoleum that I built for her, a temple your legal friends will never again open."

In a brief exchange with Officer Bienvenido Perez as he's leaving the courtroom, Von Cosel again insists that the episode is not finished.

"This can't be allowed to happen," Carl tells Bienvenido. "I must have Elena. And I need help."

"There's nothing I can do," Bienvenido answers.

"I will get some money," Carl vows. "I will do whatever I must. I'll sell everything I have."

"No, Carl, it's over," Bienvenido asserts.

"There must be a way," Carl insists.

A word of advice to those readers who make it this far into Swicegood's fascinating text: Never underestimate the power of love, especially when you still have 20 pages to go.

### Transgender continued

something amazing happened. Fear left me and I sat there with composure. I was comfortable opening my soul. My having practiced my "sound bites' paid dividends. I found that sharing my story with mom and dad was the same as telling my friends.

Today, I am closer than ever with my family. We continue to move forward.

Kristen

## My letter to parents:

**Dear Mom & Dad,**

I would like to take this opportunity to share some personal information with you. First of all, I want you to know I love you both and appreciate everything you've ever done for me. You are the most caring, giving persons I have ever known…and deep down I have always felt a special bond between us.

My life thus far has been one filled with self-searching and private grief. Self-medicating with alcohol sometimes temporarily suppressed the pain. Fortunately, I never got into any serious trouble and always felt there was a better life for me…I just had to let go, accept certain things and take hold of my life.

What I am about to tell may come as a surprise. However, you may have suspected something more different about me all along. I am transgender. More specifically, I am a male-to-female transsexual. The term transgender, in simple terms, comprises the entire group of individuals with gender issues. Transsexual persons are individuals whose body and soul do not match.

I have been this way since kindergarten, or at least as far back as I can remember. I have also been in and out of therapy over the years as a result of therapists who were unclear on the subject and treatment options. Back in March of 2002, I sought out a gender specialist who is expert in her field. After a full evaluation, seven intense therapy sessions and completing an in-depth 12-page (Temple University) gender profile, she recommended a protocol that included self-discovery and exploring safe gender options.

I am finally starting over and for the first time in my life, I have been able to reciprocate true love and express emotions. I stopped looking for the worst in people. Instead, I now look for the good things. By being myself, I was no longer ashamed of the real me. Distancing myself from negative persons allowed me to find solid friends. In essence, I have become a better person and am continuing to find ways to improve my life.

You will continue to see subtle physical changes as I move forward. The person you grew with and who's gotten me this far, remarkably unscathed, is still here. My inner vehicle no longer looks back through the old rear view mirror and things behind me. That inner medium only looks forward to the good things that lay ahead.

I hope and pray you'll continue your love and support just as you always have over the years, even when I have seemed a little screwed up. I hope this change will not affect our relationship. At this juncture, I have this situation under control. I love you.

Your son…

## Renaissance Transgendered Association Presents Spring Fling

Join the fun with the Renaissance Transgendered Education Association, Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter, when they present "Spring Fling" on March 19, 6:30 p.m. in Alois Restaurant at Bube's Brewery. The brewery is located in the Historic Central Hotel, Mt. Joy. Sumptuous Buffet for $23 at 7:00 p.m., Female Illusion Specacular starts at 9:00 p.m. Open to all. See Renaissance web site for more information: http://www.tg-support-centralpa.org/

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### IRS continued

Four years later the couple returned to court seeking to force the Veterans Administration to increase Baker's educational benefits, claiming McConnell was a dependent spouse.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the fundamental issues of joint tax status were the same as those raised regarding veterans benefits. That decision formed the basis for Ericksen's ruling Monday which said that the earlier ruling barred the couple from "relitigating claims against the IRS."

Baker, a corporate attorney, said he would appeal. A study last year shows that gay families pay on average higher taxes and get fewer benefits.

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**Central Sighting –** Steelton's Forever Books, the region's rerource for lgbt books and gifts, recently hosted their popular Wine Tasting Party. About 30 people signed up to sample a variety of California Red Wines, shown here.

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### Book Review continued

sold on the streets of Manhattan. They described it as a guerrilla publishing at its best. Today the monthly magazine is glossy produced by a relatively small staff in New York City. Published at the end of the millennium, Paper compiled the book with samplings of pop culture representing the early 80s to 1999.

Despite their obvious focus on urban culture, the editors didn't miss anything. For example, under the letter, readers will find Ricki Lake, lesbian chic, Spike Lee, lap tops, lambada, low-rider bikes, Latinas, Jonathan Larsen, LL Cool J, Monica Lewinsky, Sean Lennon, and liposuction. That's a combination only this book would have. Events span the devastation caused by AIDS to the arrival of camouflage in fashion while tossing in a few political scandals, artists, and social scene mainstays and newcomers. The book captures a time of decadence and experimentation in American culture.

The book is bright, colorful, and made to sit out on your coffee table. Readers can open it to any page and find something to jog their memory. With its artsy and hipster feel, the book is a fantastic conversation starter. In the introduction by John Waters he says, Only Paper knows the newest sexually confused nightclub playing the weirdest mutation of rap music or the best restaurant that serves my favorite tiny portions of overpriced, unidentifiable food. That basically sums up the book's theme.

To Advertise Call Mark Ocker 717 576 4326

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.
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## Social Organization

**Business Association for Gay and Lesbian (BAGAL)**
Social/Business Professionals. Meets every other month.
PO Box 135
Harrisburg, PA 17108 Phone: 717.612.8445. Email: BAGAL-PA@aol.com.

**Common Roads** - Youth group. Ages 14-24. Social/Information/Support. Social activities every Friday eve at 7:00 P.M. 1300A North 3rd St, Harrisburg. Email: info@commonroads.org. Website: www.commonroads.org. Voice: 717.920.9534.

**Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown** -P O Box 541,Bethlehem , PA 18016, non-profit social group for adult men & women, singles & couples. 1 or 2 activities each month including potlucks, bowling, movie nights, hikes, dinners, etc. Email: glorainpa@aol.com.

**Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball** - Social/Recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland Cost: $2.50, Contact: Jim at 233.3172.

**Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club** - Looking for players for summer and fall league. No experience necessary. Email: rugbydog34@aol.com.

*continued on page 22*

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.

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The Switchboard is always looking for help with its programs. It takes money and volunteers to operate the Switchboard. If you would like to help by volunteering to serve on the phone line, helping financially through membership or a donation, give us a call or write GLSH and use the attached form. Thank you for your help.

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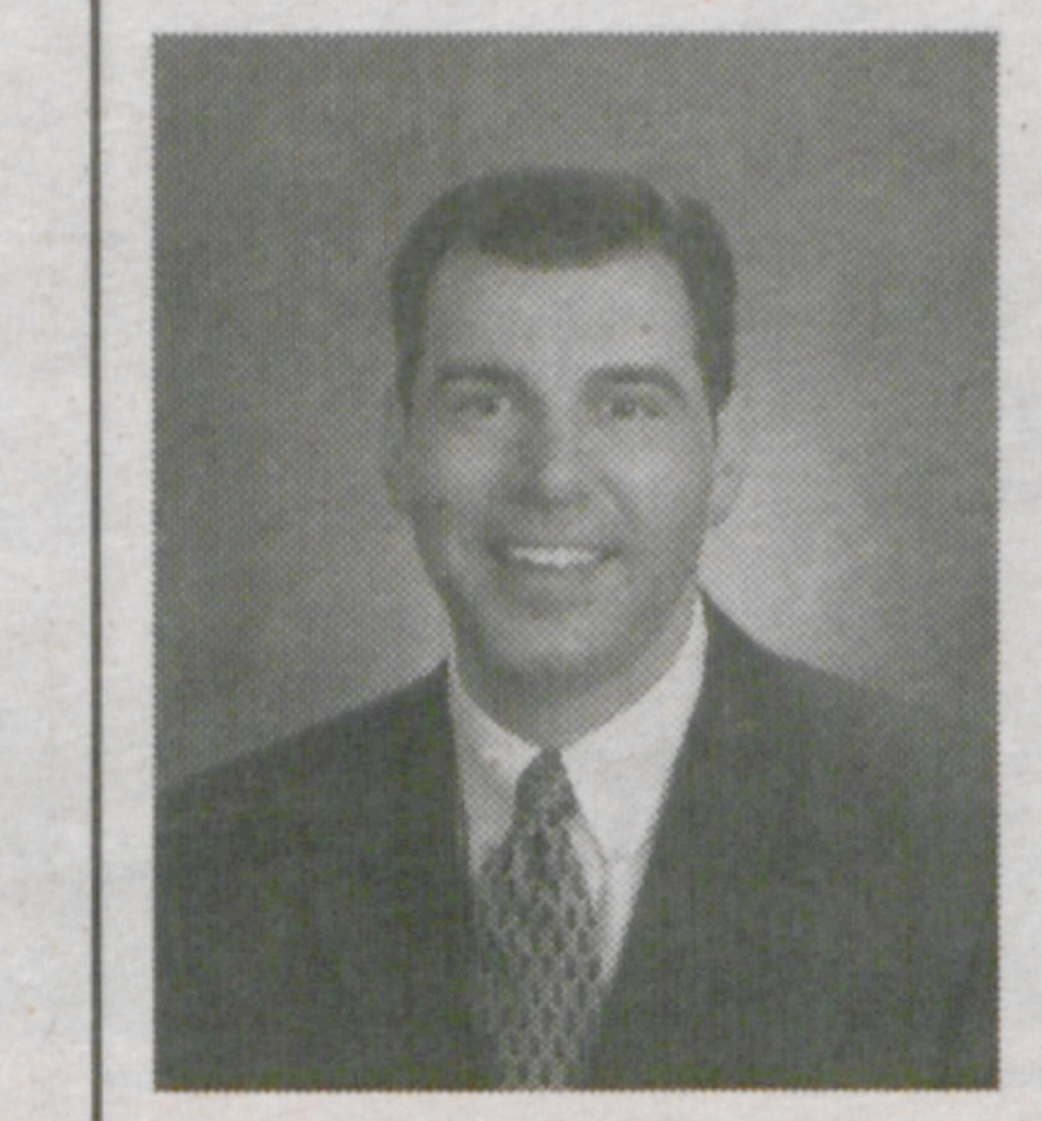

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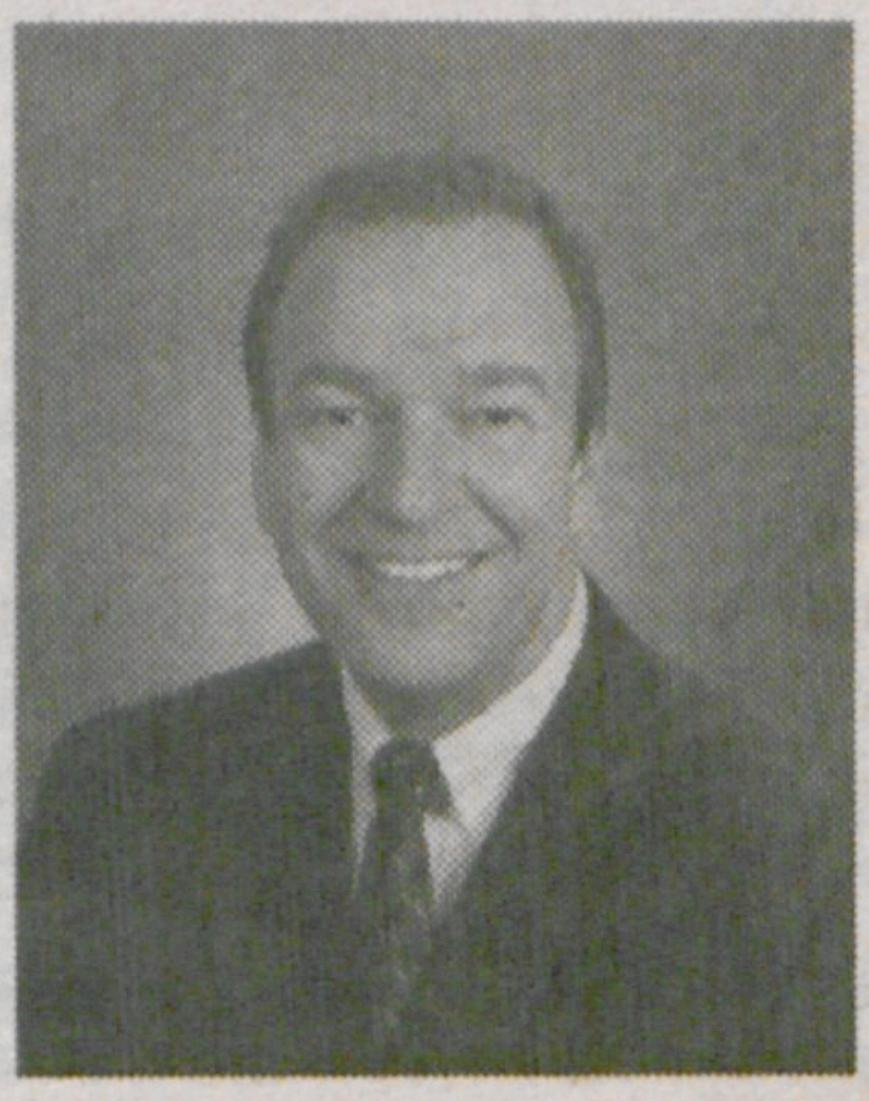

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# Market Place

Business card advertisements can be place in Market Place for the cost of $85.00 per issue. Please contact Benchmark Media for business card placement. See page 3 for Benchmark Media contact information. ALL advertisements must be received by the 1st of the month prior to the publication of the next issue. AC is published every other month beginning in January and unconditionally reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

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### GLSH continued

**Lambda Car Club -** Social/Recreation. Meets monthly. Email: Buickbum@aol.com Voice: Contact John Ball at 717.238.9766.

**Pennsmen.** Leather/Levi/Social. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the 704 Strawberry. Contact: Steve at 717.232.3785. Website: www.pennsmen.org, Email: jesjames71@comcast.net.

**Pride Festival of Central PA -** Planning meetings. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Volunteers welcome. Email: info@harrisburgpride.org. Website: www.harrisburgpride.org. Voice: 717.234.0328.

**The Rainbow Bowling League -** ABC Bowling Lanes - Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg. The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. The Rainbow Bowling League is considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We invite anyone interested in joining. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes. Contact: Mark or Robert 763-8444 for more details.

**Renaissance LSV -** Transgendered. Social/Information/Support. Meets the 1st Saturday of each month. Email: renaissancelsv@hotmail.org. Website: www.ren.org. Voice: 717.780.1578.

**Susquehanna Valley Bears -** PO BOX 61478, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1478. Website:: www.svbears.com, Email: svbears@svbears.com

continued below

**Susquehanna Club -** Recreation/Camping. Membership organization. Website: www.susq.org, Email: camp@susq.org.

**Womyn's Chorus of Central PA** - Social - Regular rehearsals every Monday night at 7 PM. We need YOUR voice and spirit. Email info@cpwchorus.org. Website: www.cpwchorus.org or call 717.234.4825.

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### News Notes continued

trying to regulate "public morality."

Fox cited the testimony of sociologists and psychologists that gay people can be as loving and caring foster parents as heterosexuals, and that the children of gay adoptive parents can be as well-adjusted as those raised by heterosexual couples.

When Kathy L. Hall, lawyer for the state board, argued at the end of the trial that social mores stand against homosexuals serving as parents, Fox noted that women were once prohibited from voting and racially mixed marriages were illegal in many states.

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**Thursday April 28th**
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